Don Farrell donates collection to JKPL. PAGE 3

Calvo Enterprises acquires Tokio Marine Pacific Insurance. PAGE 7

Hafa Adai!

$1

Saipan Tribune

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THURSDAY AUGUST 10, 2023
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MVA

The CNMI Department of Public Safety has relaunched its bike patrol unit in the main tourist district of Garapan, Saipan, starting Aug. 4, 2023.

DPS bike patrol returns to Garapan

» DPS reopens sub-station on Cactus Street

The Department of Public Safety has reinstated its bike patrol—police officers riding bicycles—in the main tourist district of Garapan starting in August—a development that is being warmly welcomed by the Marianas Visitors Authority.

The unit was introduced by DPS Commissioner Clement Bermudes last Aug. 4 in the company of MVA acting board chair Gloria Cavanagh, MVA managing director Christopher A. Concepcion,

See DPS on Page 4

Search for 9 DFW firearms continues

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Department of Lands and Natural Resources still has no answers as to the whereabouts of nine government-issued firearms registered to the Division of Fish and Wildlife that were discovered to be missing back in May.

DLNR discovered that eight DFW rifles and one handgun were unaccounted for and were deemed missing after the Office of the Public Auditor

See SEARCH on Page 4

Mendiola urges fellow senators to oppose Jorgensen's nomination

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Jorgensen

Mendiola

Citing a petition with 90 signatures and five letters from Rota residents who strongly oppose the appointment of lawyer Bruce Lee Jorgensen to serve as a member of the Commonwealth Ports Authority board representing Rota, Sen. Dennis James C. Mendiola (R-Rota) has requested the Senate Executive Appointments and Government Investigations

See MENDIOLA on Page 4

Mariana Global eyes 1K tourists a day to Managaha

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Mariana Global Inc. plans to upgrade beach rental equipment like beach chairs, beach towels, beach cots and umbrellas, among others.

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

» Promises to transform tourist hot spot into Pacific Eco-Island

The new master concessionaire of Managaha Island is pretty upbeat about tourists returning in droves to the CNMI's tourist hot spot.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
An artist's rendition shows a new signage that Mariana Global Inc. is reportedly planning to install on Managaha Island.

While doing so, the company also envisions transforming the small islet on the west coast of Saipan into what they term the Pacific Eco-Island.

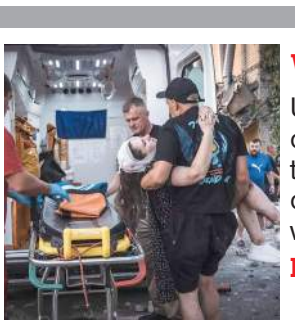
Speaking through Mc-

See MARIANA on Page 4

'TOUCHBACK' COUNTDOWN
Number of days left until the "touchback" rule takes effect on Sept. 30, 2023:
51

INSIDE

BUSINESS
Bank of Hawai'I breaks ground on a new West Pacific Regional Headquarters in Guam.
PAGE 11



WORLD
Ukrainian officials on Tuesday accused the Kremlin's forces of targeting rescue workers.
PAGE 13

LIFE & STYLE
Sinéad O'Connor is mourned by thousands as the singer's casket is brought to its final resting place.
PAGE 15

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Local

Bill that re-appropriates $881K to HNP enacted into law

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Gov. Arnold I. Palacios has signed into law a bill that would re-appropriate $881,987 to the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.'s Health Network Program, previously known as the CNMI Medical Referral Program.

House Bill 23-60, House Draft 1, is now Public Law 23-08.

Authored by Rep. Blas Jonathan T. Attao (Ind-Saipan) and co-sponsored by several other representatives, the House unanimously passed it with amendments last July 7. The bill was then referred to the Senate Committee on Fiscal Affairs. The full Senate passed it without amendments last July 17.

Under the legislation, a total of $881,987, which is what remains of the $1.08 million that was previously appropriated for the Solid Waste Transfer Station, will be re-appropriated to HNP for travel, housing, and transportation expenses.

However, $50,000 of the $881,987 shall be set aside for interisland medical referrals.

Attao said that HNP is in dire need of additional funds to assist patients who are seeking medical treatment outside of the CNMI. He underscored the need for the House, Senate, and the administration to work harmoniously to find funds to assist HNP and CHCC to continue these services for the people of the CNMI in their medical needs.

Attao stated in the bill that the Office of the Capital Improvement Projects under the Executive Branch has identified funds for the architectural and engineering design, and construction of a solid waste transfer station for the southern part of Saipan. However, a section of Public Law 20-61 already appropriated $1,085,000 for the exact same project.

Palacios appoints Rabauliman to CEDA, San Nicolas to Scholarship

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Gov. Arnold I. Palacios has nominated former Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality administrator Francisco M. Rabauliman to serve on the Commonwealth Economic Development Authority board of directors, representing Saipan and Northern Islands.

Palacios has also appointed Tinian Public School System teacher/counselor Patricia Joy S. San Nicolas to serve as a member of the CNMI Scholarship board of directors, representing Tinian and Aguiguan.

If confirmed by the Senate, Rabauliman will serve the remaining of a four-year term that will expire on Sept. 25, 2023.

Palacios informed Senate president Edith E. DeLeon Guerrero (D-Saipan) in a letter last week that this shall also serve as a re-nomination of Rabauliman to serve a subsequent four-year term that will expire on Sept. 25, 2027.

If confirmed by the Senate, because the terms of Scholarship board are staggered, San Nicolas would serve the remaining of a four-year term that will expire on June 22, 2027.

Rabauliman also used to serve as chairman of the Northern Marianas College Board of Regents.

The Scholarship board of directors reviews applications for student grants, student loans, and other programs of student financial assistance administered by the CNMI Scholarship Office. The board also recommends objective standards for the awards of student financial aid.

Saipan Tribune learned that San Nicolas has a bachelor's degree in science education. She is the daughter of former Tinian mayor Joey Patrick San Nicolas.

Deadline nears for NMI nonprofits to apply for SBA fed disaster loan

SACRAMENTO, Calif.— Private nonprofit organizations in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands are being reminded of the Sept. 8 deadline to apply for an SBA federal disaster loan for property damage caused by Typhoon Mawar that occurred May 22 — 29. Private nonprofits that provide essential services of a governmental nature are eligible for assistance.

According to director Tanya N. Garfield of the U.S. Small Business Administration's Disaster Field Operations Center-West, eligible private nonprofits of any size may apply for SBA federal disaster loans of up to $2 million to repair or replace damaged or destroyed real estate, machinery and equipment, inventory and other business assets. SBA can also lend additional funds to help with the cost of making improvements that protect, prevent or minimize the same type of disaster damage from occurring in the future.

In addition, SBA offers Economic Injury Disaster Loans to help eligible private nonprofits meet working capital needs caused by the disaster. Economic Injury Disaster Loans may be used to pay fixed debts, payroll, accounts payable and other bills that cannot be paid because of the disaster's impact. Economic injury assistance is available regardless of whether the private nonprofit suffered any property damage. Private nonprofits have until April 14, 2024, to apply for an SBA Economic Injury Disaster Loan.

These low-interest federal disaster loans are available on Rota, Saipan and Tinian.

The interest rate is 2.375% with terms up to 30 years. Loan amounts and terms are set by SBA and based on each applicant's financial condition.

Applicants may apply online, receive additional disaster assistance information and download applications at https://disasterloanassistance.sba.gov/. Applicants may also call SBA's Customer Service Center at (800) 659-2955 or email disastercustomerservice@sba.gov for more information on SBA disaster assistance. For people who are deaf, hard of hearing, or have a speech disability, dial 7-1-1 to access telecommunications relay services. Completed applications should be mailed to U.S. Small Business Administration, Processing and Disbursement Center, 14925 Kingsport Road, Fort Worth, TX 76155. ***(PR)***

MTEC pays off: Beach cleanups to balance sheets

With registration now open for the 2023 Marianas Tourism Golf Classic on Sept. 2, 2023, at LaoLao Bay Golf & Resort west course on Saipan, the Marianas Tourism Education Council is counting on a good turnout to support its community outreach and school tourism MY WAVE (Marianas Youth Welcome All Visitors Enthusiastically) Clubs.

And speaking of counting, Finance manager Franco Santos recently shared his experience being a member of MY WAVE Club for two years at Gregorio T. Camacho Elementary School, where he participated in beach cleanups, attended tourism-related seminars, and joined cultural dance clubs. Santos said he joined the club because he was interested in learning about tourism.

"I learned the importance of our tourism industry, how to welcome our visitors and learn what job opportunities are out there in the hotel and tourism industry," he said. "I participated in beach cleanups, attended tourism-related seminars, and joined cultural dance clubs."

Santos' first job upon high school graduation was at LaoLao Bay Golf & Resort. While working, he earned a Bachelor's of Science Degree in Business Management and Accounting Concentration from Northern Marianas College, and now serves as a Finance manager at the Marianas Alliance of Non-Governmental Organizations. He continues to enjoy many of the same experiences visitors look for when they visit the Marianas.

"I love to play golf, go hiking, go to the beach, and spend time with my small family exploring our beautiful islands and what it has to offer," said Santos. "When I see tourists around, I always think of what I learned from MY WAVE Club. We need to treat our visitors with respect, welcome them with open arms, and treat them like family. Treating them like family makes the relationship more impactful and meaningful so that when they go back home, all the stories they tell their family and friends will be genuine and authentic; even the smallest gesture will go a long way. I love seeing tourists roam our streets, soaking in the hot sun at the beaches and exploring our beautiful islands."

Santos also volunteers his time to assist with numerous golf tournaments, including the 2023 Marianas Tourism Golf Classic.

"I love what the MY WAVE Club is doing and even though we've been hit with so many adversities in the past years and our tourism industry is not where we would like it to be, we need to keep moving forward and keep our head up to make things better," he said.

"It's inspiring to hear from former MYWAVE Club students and realize just how much their lives were impacted by joining the Club," said MTEC chair Vicky Benavente.

Tournament registration forms and sponsorship details are now available on the Marianas Calendar at www.mymarianas.com.

Registration is $120 until August 25, 2023. After Aug. 25, registration increases to $140. Optional play is $30. Registration—including payment—is being accepted at LaoLao Bay Golf & Resort (credit card or cash only) and the Marianas Visitors Authority office (cash or check only) on Beach Road, Garapan, at the Gold Beach Hotel building. Checks should be made payable to Marianas Tourism Education Council.

For more information, contact Marianas Tourism Golf Classic Committee chair Martin Duenas at mduenas@mymarianas.com or committee member Jack Aranda at jaranda@mymarianas.com or call (670) 664-3200/1. ***(MTEC)***

Don Farrell donates collections to JKPL

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Northern Mariana Islands historian Don Farrell donates a collection of materials to the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library's Pacific Room, including 23 issues of *Time* magazine from 1944-1945.

Northern Mariana Islands historian Don Farrell has donated a collection of materials to the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library's Pacific Room, including 23 issues of *Time* magazine from 1944-1945.

"We are thrilled to receive this valuable donation from Don Farrell," said JKPL director Erlinda C. Naputi. "These materials will be a valuable resource for our researchers and students."

The collection includes issues of *Time* magazine from some of the most important events in history, including numerous advertisements of the time and write-ups documenting World War II. The materials will be used by researchers and students to study these events and their impact on the world.

"I am excited to see these materials go to a good home where they will be used and appreciated," said Farrell. "I hope they will help people learn about history and understand the world we live in today."

The collection will be available for reference at the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library Pacific Room. ***(PR)***

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Job Title: **Massage Therapist**
Hours: Full time
Job Available: I October 2023
POSITION SUMMARY:
Perform therapeutic massages of soft tissues and joints. May assist in the assessment of range of motion and muscle strength, or propose client therapy plans.
Qualifications:
High School/GED graduate with at least one year of massage therapy experience;
Company: Tang Investments, Inc. dba Healing Stone Yu Yu Spa
Location: Holiday Saipan Hotel, Puti Tainobu Avenue, Garapan
Note: Background check may be required prior to employment. Only US applicants will be considered.

Job Title: **General Manager**
Hours: Full time
Job Available: I October 2023
POSITION SUMMARY:
Manage the daily operations of the Healing Stone Yu Yu Spa. Supervise Massage Therapists and cleaning and administrativestaff. May assist in performing therapeutic massages as necessary.
Qualifications:
High School/GED graduate with at least two years of massage therapy experience; must have management, communication, team work, problem solving, organizational, decision-making, planning and time management skills.
Company: Tang Investments, Inc. dba Healing Stone Yu Yu Spa
Location: Holiday Saipan Hotel, Puti Tainobu Avenue, Garapan
Note: Background check may be required prior to employment. Only US applicants will be considered.

Please deliver a complete and detailed resume to the Healing Stone Yu Yu Spa at Holiday Saipan Hotel, Puti Tainobu Avenue, Garapan or by mail to Tang Investments, Inc. at PMB 3058 Box 10002 Saipan, MP 96950, or by e-mail to tanginvestmentsinc@gmail.com.

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PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATION (RFQ)
RFQ23-CHCC/DESIGN BUILD-IDIQ-0016

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS FOR IDIQ (INDEFINITE DELIVERY-INDEFINITE QUANTITY) DESIGN/BUILD CONTRACTORS FOR COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION

The Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation (CHCC) is a public corporation and autonomous agency of the Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI). In accordance with its Procurement Rules and Regulations, NMIAC Subchapter 140-80.1, CHCC hereby seeks the services of qualified Contractors to perform Design/Build Services for Projects located at the hospital in Saipan, Clinics in Tinian and Rota. The selected Contractors will be issued an Indefinite Delivery-Indefinite Quantity (IDIQ) Contract through **RFQ23-CHCC-DESIGN/BUILD-0016**. These services are in accordance with CHCC's Procurement Rules and Regulations and procedures shall be in full compliance with these rules and regulations including but not limited to Sections **140-80.1-250 Pre-Qualification of Contractors and 140-80.1-305 Architect-Engineer Services**.

The Request for Proposals and Scope of Work is available on July 26th, 2023 online at www.chcc.health, navigate to the RFP tab on the left navigation bar, click on the URL for this **RFQ23-CHCC/DESIGN BUILD-IDIQ-016**.

A Pre-conference meeting will be held on August 2nd, 2023 at 9:00AM at the Preparedness Conference Room and general assembly will be at the CHCC/Public Health Entrance in front of the CHCC Gift Shop.

Inquiries regarding this RFQ must be submitted in writing via email to Ms. Cora P. Ada, Director of Procurement at cora.ada@chcc.health no later than August 23rd, 2023.

Proposers shall submit proposals and all supporting documents to **Corazon P. Ada, Director, CHCC Division of Procurement and Supply, at cora.ada@chcc.health, no later than: 1000hrs (10am) Chamorro Standard Time on August 28th, 2023.**

/S/ DR. ESTHER L. MUNA
CHC CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

/S/ CORA P. ADA
DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY

NMC to host premiere of HS students films

By CHRYSTAL MARINO
chrystal_marino@saipantribune.com
CORRESPONDENT

Concluding their Cinema on Saipan: Movie Making in the Marianas program, Northern Marianas College will be premiering the student-made films this Friday at the Regal Theaters in San Jose.

The premiere event will begin on site at 5pm, and the audience will get to view all three short films done completely by high school students who participated in NMC's Cinema on Saipan: Movie Making in the Marianas program led by instructor Demetrius Borge.

Estimated runtime for the viewing is about an hour. At the end of the event, there will be a certificate presentation and award presentation.

The premiere marks not only the culmination of the NMC program but also intends to celebrate the gained knowledge and highlight the hard work of these young individuals who joined the three-week program.

The film program had been an innovative initiative between NMC and the CNMI Public School System aimed at nurturing the creative talents of high school students and was facilitated and coordinated by NMC's Community Development Institute.

Day 3 of jury trial for man accused of rape

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The jury trial for a man accused of raping a female relative in San Vicente entered Day 3 with testimonies from expert witnesses.

The jury trial for Kenneth Thomas Blas Kaipat saw the prosecution calling up it's first expert witness, a former Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. nurse who specializes in sexual assault examinations, which includes the use of rape kits.

Shawna Brennfleck stated that, based on her examination of the victim, her injuries were consistent with her claims of sexual assault.

During her testimony, assistant attorney general Steve Kessel, who is the lead prosecutor, moved to admit the contents of the rape kit used in examining the alleged victim, but defense counsel Brien Sers Nicholas opposed the admission of this evidence. The court has yet to rule on the verbal motion.

Kaipat's trial is set to continue today at the Superior Court and is expected to continue on to next week.

According to the information against Kaipat, the victim was taking an afternoon nap on June 2, 2019, at a home in San Vicente, when she was attacked and raped. She was violently woken up as she was being strangled from behind. She said she could not identify the perpetrator as his face was covered with clothing.

Police officers reported that the female victim's face was covered in blood that ran down to her chest while both her eyes were heavily bruised and swollen.

Medical records indicated that the victim sustained lacerations, extensive bruising, and had a concussion.

In an interview with Kaipat, he claimed he was walking to a nearby store when something hard hit him on the upper right side of his head.

Public warned vs. high surf, rip currents

The public is being warned that a high surf advisory in effect from 6am today, Thursday, to 5pm Saturday. There is also a high risk of rip currents from today morning through Saturday afternoon.

Based on the information received from the National Weather Service in Guam and compiled at the CNMI Emergency Operations Center State Warning Point, large breaking waves of 7-10 feet and dangerous rip currents are expected in south and west facing reefs of Saipan, Tinian, and Rota. These will create dangerous swimming and surfing conditions and localized beach erosion. Rip currents can sweep even the best swimmers away from shore into deeper water.

An increasing monsoon swell is expected to bring hazardous surf conditions to the Marianas this Thursday morning.

Inexperienced swimmers should remain out of the water due to dangerous surf conditions. The public is advised to stay out of the waters along south and west facing reefs. Swim near a lifeguard. If caught in a rip current, relax and float. Don't swim against the current. If able, swim in a direction following the shoreline. If unable to escape, face the shore and call or wave for help. ***(PR)***

MARIANA

From page 1

Cann Seoul general manager/digital marketing Johan Lee, Mariana Global Inc. founder and CEO Younghee Yoon said they fully expect Managaha Island to attract 1,000 tourists per day once renovations are complete.

Currently, Managaha Island averages 700-800 tourists a day as visitor arrivals from South Korea who are on holiday flock to the destination.

In the past, the island was voted one of the best diving and snorkeling spots in the world by travel fairs in Japan. Before the COVID-19 pandemic, around 1,000 individuals would visit Managaha Island per day, as per records from the Department of Public Lands.

Lee said Mariana Global as the master concessionaire plans to operate all restaurants, snack bars, souvenir shops, beach chairs/cots and umbrella rentals, and marine sports on the island.

While they soft-opened last month, Mariana Global is eyeing a grand opening for the new Managaha Island in January 2024.

Their focus in renovating the site is three-pronged, starting with upgrading beach rental equipment like beach chairs, beach towels, beach cots and umbrellas for tourists to relax, among others.

Mariana Global is also keen on improving Managaha Island's food and beverage choices, which they will do hopefully in concert with Winners/P&A Corp., which already operates the CK Smokehouse.

P&A Corp. general manager Doyi Kim said Korean tourists visiting Managaha Island usually enjoy ramyun or Korean noodles. She, however, acknowledged that they will need to mix up the variety of their food offerings once Japanese—and hopefully Chinese—tourists come back in numbers to Saipan.

And speaking of the China market, Lee said that once the Chinese tourist market opens, Mariana Global anticipates to have more tourists visiting Managaha. However, he fears the current infrastructure of the island may not be able to support more tourists.

Lastly, Lee said the company is looking at introducing 20 new marine sports activities like paddleboarding, parasailing, etc.

As for transportation to and from Managaha Island, for now local ferry boat companies and speed boat operators are allowed to ply their trade, but Mariana Global said it's eyeing operating their own boat service.

Future Pacific Eco-Island

Managaha Island, as a nature reserve, embraces strict development limitations and Mariana Global said it supports this policy—both protecting nature while offering eco-friendly amenities for tourists.

The company said in an earlier email interview that they are dedicated to transitioning electricity and water systems to eco-friendly alternatives.

Regarding waste management, Mariana Global said comprehensive policy for Saipan is essential and thus they are currently in discussions with the local government to explore the possibility of introducing an incineration facility.

A longer version of this story is available at www. saipantribune.com

DPS

From page 1

Office of the Attorney General prosecutor Chester Hinds, and other MVA, OAG and DPS officials and staff.

"On behalf of our visitors and our tourism industry stakeholders, we'd like to extend a big thank you to Commissioner Bermudes and his team at DPS for this positive step to increase its presence in the Garapan area," said Concepcion. "We echo the department's invitation for businesses and community members to remain engaged with officers as they work to help ensure safety and security for us all. Special thanks to Sgt. David Hosono and his team who will be managing the Garapan substation."

DPS simultaneously reopened its sub-station located on Cactus Street in the former MIHA housing subdivision in Garapan. Concepcion added that following a meeting with DPS last month, the department has also increased patrols to popular tourist sites in Marpi. ***(MVA)***

SEARCH

From page 1

notified in May various government agencies that it wants a survey of all government-issued firearms in the CNMI.

As of yesterday, DLNR Secretary Sylvan Igisomar said the investigation into the missing firearms continues.

"I can confirm that there are missing firearms at DLNR's Division of Fish and Wildlife. I was made aware of the missing firearms and reported it immediately to the Department of Public Safety in early May. A joint investigation ensued shortly thereafter. The investigation is still ongoing," he said.

Igisomar said the department hopes to find the firearms soon and determine how they went missing in the first place.

"DLNR remains committed to the safety and well-being of the community and has instructed all department employees to fully cooperate with the investigation. We hope to find these firearms swiftly and properly store them and find out how this happened and make sure appropriate steps are taken to ensure this never occurs again," he said.

Meanwhile, in a statement from the Department of Public Safety, it said the department assures the community that once updates on the missing firearms are available, the information will be disseminated to the public.

"On May 5, DPS dispatch received a call from DNLR reporting that they were missing a total of nine firearms (one pistol and eight rifles) from their enforcement inventory. DPS received the report, and the case remains an ongoing investigation," said DPS spokesperson Fred Sato.

According to the official police report regarding the missing firearms, DPS received a "disturbing the peace" call from DLNR's office in Lower Base at around 2:57pm last May 5. At the scene, police spoke with Igisomar, who informed responding officers that there wasn't really a disturbing the peace incident. Instead, Igisomar said he wanted to file a report about missing firearms that they had just discovered.

Igisomar explained that he got a notification of audit survey from the Office of the Public Auditor on May 1, saying they wanted a survey of all firearms issued by the CNMI government. He forwarded the information to Manny Pangelinan, director of Fish and Wildlife, and told him the deadline for the survey was going to be on May 5.

The DLNR secretary said he got the survey on May 4, and discovered that there were nine unaccounted for firearms—eight rifles and a Glock 34 handgun.

MENDIOLA

From page 1

Committee to thoroughly examine the concerns raised in the petition.

When asked about it yesterday, Jorgensen declined to comment, saying he has not seen Mendiola's letter yet.

At the Senate EAGI Committee confirmation hearing last July 26, Jorgensen, however, stated that he has been back in the CNMI for over 14 months now and that he voted in the last 2022 election on Rota. He said he first voted on Rota in 1986.

Jorgensen said he plans to retire on Rota and that his son is going to build him a house there.

In his letter to EAGI Committee chair Sen. Celina R. Babauta (D-Saipan) last July 21, Mendiola enclosed supporting documents raised by the petitioners, along with additional inquiries he made with the Commonwealth Election Commission based on the concerns.

"Prioritizing the well-being and goals of the community of Rota is of the utmost importance when it comes to the governance of the Commonwealth Ports Authority," the senator told Babauta.

Babauta received Mendiola's letter last July 26, or on the day of the hearing. The Office of the Senate clerk received the letter Thursday last week.

Mendiola said that, as a representative of the people of Rota, he urges Gov. Arnold I. Palacios and Lt. Gov. David M. Apatang to reconsider Jorgensen's nomination.

"It is of utmost importance that the candidate chosen aligns with the best interests of the Rota community," he said.

Mendiola urged his fellow senators to oppose the nomination and letting Palacios and Apatang search for a "highly invested and culturally acquainted" candidate from Rota.

He pointed out that the signatories in the petition that opposes Jorgensen's nomination have expressed legitimate concerns, providing justifiable grounds for the Senate to reconsider and withhold Jorgensen's confirmation as a member of the CPA board.

Mendiola said the petitioners explicitly convey their strong belief that "Jorgensen's nomination is invalid and an affront to the people of Rota."

The petition highlights three primary reasons—Jorgensen's lack of active community participation, his questionable residence, and the importance of local representation on the CPA board.

The senator said that, upon reviewing the voting records obtained from the Commonwealth Election Commission, he made a "startling discovery" about Jorgensen. He noted that Jorgensen's most recent attempt to register to vote dates back to 2003, and even then, his registration faced challenges due to residency issues.

A longer version of this story is available at www. saipantribune.com

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SP23R0066
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WAS $29,999 YOU PAY
$26,999*

SP23R0067
2021 TOYOTA TACOMA SR
WAS $29,999 YOU PAY
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2021 TOYOTA HIGHLANDER LE
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Skill Up CNMI Expo

CHRYSTAL MARINO

Kickstarting one of four expos of its kind to be held on Saipan, the Department of Labor's Skill Up CNMI Expo assisted an estimated 30 individuals yesterday at the Carolinian Affairs Office in Garapan, from 4pm to 7pm. Aside from the Department of Labor's Work Investment Agency Division, there were seven booths that informed and helped individuals explore career options in the hotel and retail industries, healthcare, automotive, construction and trades. Department of Labor's Work Investment Agency Division director Frances Torres said the goal of the expo is to promote employment. The Skill Up CNMI Expo will continue for three more days on Saipan, before going to Tinian on Aug. 17 and Rota on Aug. 31. The expo continued yesterday at the Tanapag Youth Center from 4pm to 7pm. It will also be held at the Kagman Community Center on Aug. 10 and Koblerville Youth Center on Aug. 11, all from 4pm to 7pm.

Calvo Enterprises acquires Tokio Marine Pacific Insurance

HAGÅTÑA, Guam—Calvo Enterprises, Inc., doing business in Guam since 1975 and parent company of the Calvo family conglomerate, including Calvo's Insurance Underwriters, Inc. (CIU), announced yesterday that it has reached an agreement to acquire Tokio Marine Pacific Insurance Limited, a well-established insurance company headquartered in Guam since 1968. Through its general agent CIU, TMPI has been the underwriter of the Calvo's SelectCare Health Plan since its inception. This strategic move marks a significant milestone for CIU to further expand its market presence and strengthen its commitment to providing world-class regional insurance services.

Paul A. Calvo, president and CEO of CIU and vice president of CEI, said, "This announcement comes at a special time when Calvo's Insurance is celebrating its 85th anniversary. The acquisition of TMPI further solidifies our position as a trusted leader in the insurance industry and reinforces our dedication to providing tailored insurance solutions to meet the evolving needs of our customers."

Leonard P. Calvo, chairman and president of CEI, added, "As we embark on this exciting journey, we are committed to building upon TMPI's legacy of excellence while delivering superior service to our clients."

TMPI president and CEO Yutaka Majima noted that Calvo's Insurance is the ideal successor in the region. "We are confident that our customers will enjoy the consistency of service when TMPI becomes part of Calvo's legacy of trust. We are committed to working together on a smooth transition to benefit our customers and stakeholders," Majima said.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Calvo Enterprises, Inc., the parent company of the Calvo family conglomerate, including Calvo's Insurance Underwriters, Inc., has reached an agreement to acquire Tokio Marine Pacific Insurance Limited, a well-established insurance company headquartered in Guam since 1968.

Frank J. Campillo, Health Plan administrator for Calvo's SelectCare, agreed that TMPI's existing policyholders can expect a coordinated transition. "The name of the company will change to Calvo's SelectCare Insurance, but health insurance customers, policyholders, and stakeholders can continue to count on the excellent service standard and product range they've known for decades. They won't see any interruptions during the transition," he said. "It is our intention to keep all TMPI employees under the new ownership."

The transaction is expected to close in the second half of 2023. For more information about the acquisition, visit calvos.com. ***(PR)***

CHRYSTAL MARINO

Rotary Club of Saipan president Irene P. Holl, along with club officers, directors, and member, join Northern Marianas College president Dr. Galvin Deleon Guerrero, CNMI SBDC Network associate director Mercilynn Kaneshi Palec, and outreach specialist Roman Tudela after a presentation at the Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan last Tuesday.

Saipan Rotary, CNMI SBDCN agree to team up to boost entrepreneurship

By CHRYSTAL MARINO
chrystal_marino@saipantribune.com
CORRESPONDENT

The Rotary Club of Saipan has joined the CNMI Small Business Development Center Network at the Northern Marianas College as the network's newest community partner, with a memorandum of understanding signing at the Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan in Garapan last Tuesday.

With the same mission and goal to further develop the CNMI economy, both CNMI SBDCN and the Rotary Club of Saipan will be working together in the upcoming year—and through the MOU partnership agreement—to co-sponsor business development seminars and assist each other with the marketing of co-sponsored training events, and to provide the clientele of either organization information about the other.

With Rotary Club of Saipan referring clients and other small businesses in need of a business startup or expansion counselling to SBDCN, SBDCN, in turn, will provide clients referred by the Rotary with free confidential one-on-one start and expansion business counselling services and load packaging services.

Northern Marianas College president Dr. Galvin Deleon Guerrero, and SBDCN associate director Mercilynn Kaneshi Palec, and outreach specialist Roman Tudela were the event's guests and speakers at last Tuesday's meeting, with Tudela and Palec sharing with Rotarians the many services SBDC provides for entrepreneurs and businessowners.

Tudela said the CNMI's SBDCN gives business-related assistance and knowledge to all entrepreneurs to help them start, run, and grow their business. He said it has a cooperative agreement with the U.S. Small Business Administration and the NMC.

"It is really deeply rooted in our commitment as an institution to ensure that the people for the Northern Marianas work toward improving the economy through entrepreneurship and self-sufficiency [because] sometimes there's this misperception that folks in the Pacific islands just rely on handouts, and that's just not true. … Many of our ancestors were farmers and our fishermen were navigators, and when you look at how we as a set of islands have survived wars and typhoons and economic turbulence, the only way we get through it is by coming together—and many of the values of the Saipan Rotary Club and Rotarians [we] share. And so for us to have our own network for the Small Business Development Center is more proof of the college's commitment to rebuilding the economy one entrepreneur at a time," said Deleon Guerrero, who was the Saipan Rotary Club's Citizen of the Year in 2018.

SBDCN provides business counseling, business education in training, and technical assistance in developing information tools that support startups and existing business expansion.

COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORP.
COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANAS
MOBILE CLINIC SCHEDULE
AUG 1 17
Adult Health Check
Update on personal medical history, blood pressure check, glucose check, resources & referrals
Nutrition Assistance Program , As Lito from 8:00AM - 11:30AM
DFEMS Station 3, Capitol Hill from 8:00AM - 11:30AM
AUG 3 10
Child Health Check
For children 0-17 years old. Measurements and growth, anticipatory guidance, resources & referrals
Angel Market, Kagman from 1:00PM - 4:30PM
Joeten Kiyu Public Library, Susupe from 1:00PM - 4:30PM
AUG 12 24
Women's Health Check
For women who haven't seen a healthcare provider longer than 1 year, pap smears, breast exams, pre/post partum care, resources & referrals
Guma Sakman, Susupe from 8:00AM - 11:30AM
WIC Clinic, Navy Hill from 8:00AM - 11:30AM
WHAT TO BRING:
INSURANCE CARD (Medicaid and most private insurances accepted)
VALID PHOTO ID (Driver's license, Passport, Mayor's ID, etc.)
August is National Immunization Awareness Month
#iVAX2PROTECT
(670) 287-9926/9927/9929
www.chcc.health
@cnmichcc

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR
editor@saipantribune.com

Mark Rabago ASSOCIATE EDITOR
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com

MEMBER

The Associated Press | Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Florida, be bold: Ban neckties and pantyhose

Florida, it's time to ban two instruments of torture that, so far as we can see, serve no useful purpose: Pantyhose. And neckties.

We're not saying people should be forbidden from wearing them. If men (or women) treasure the ritual of selecting an expensive, patterned-silk status symbol they want to knot tightly around their necks before venturing into 100-degree-plus heat, they should have that right. If women (or men) want the experience of spending $10 or more on a pair of hose that are likely to rip as they're being wriggled into for the very first time, before venturing into 100-degree plus heat, ditto.

Just don't force anyone to do it. Especially not in Florida. Though it really should be banned under the Eighth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution as both cruel and (increasingly) unusual. In fact, we were surprised to learn that some Florida employers still demand that their employees wear them.

Stop. Just … stop.

Most already have, even those employers known to have comprehensive dress codes. Consider the uniforms and dress codes for Walt Disney World theme parks and resorts: At one point, the fabled "Disney look" could mean ungodly levels of discomfort, including the much-reviled costume worn in the Magic Kingdom's Fantasyland and allegedly designed by Walt Disney himself: Yellow head kerchief, blouse, shorts, knee-length socks worn over pantyhose and topping it all, a close-fitting, multi-layered dirndl-style dress in neon hues of blue, green or red. Imagine wearing all that, in summer's full sun on reflective concrete as you herd guests away from parade routes or peddle ice cream bars, and you've captured the memories of thousands of once-young Central Floridians who are now nearing retirement age.

Today, Disney cast members wear costumes that are far more comfortable. And for those who work behind the scenes, the company's official online dress code states that hose and neckties are now optional, along with suit jackets for either gender.

Another one of Central Florida's leading employers, AdventHealth, also dropped its hose-and-ties-mandatory rules for people employed in corporate offices years ago, a spokesman said. And dozens of workers in Florida's legislative offices clapped back at flyers that appear to ban sleeveless dresses when lawmakers are in the Capitol.

For those who view this proposed ban as an unwelcome intrusion into corporate decision-making, well, that's nothing new. Right?

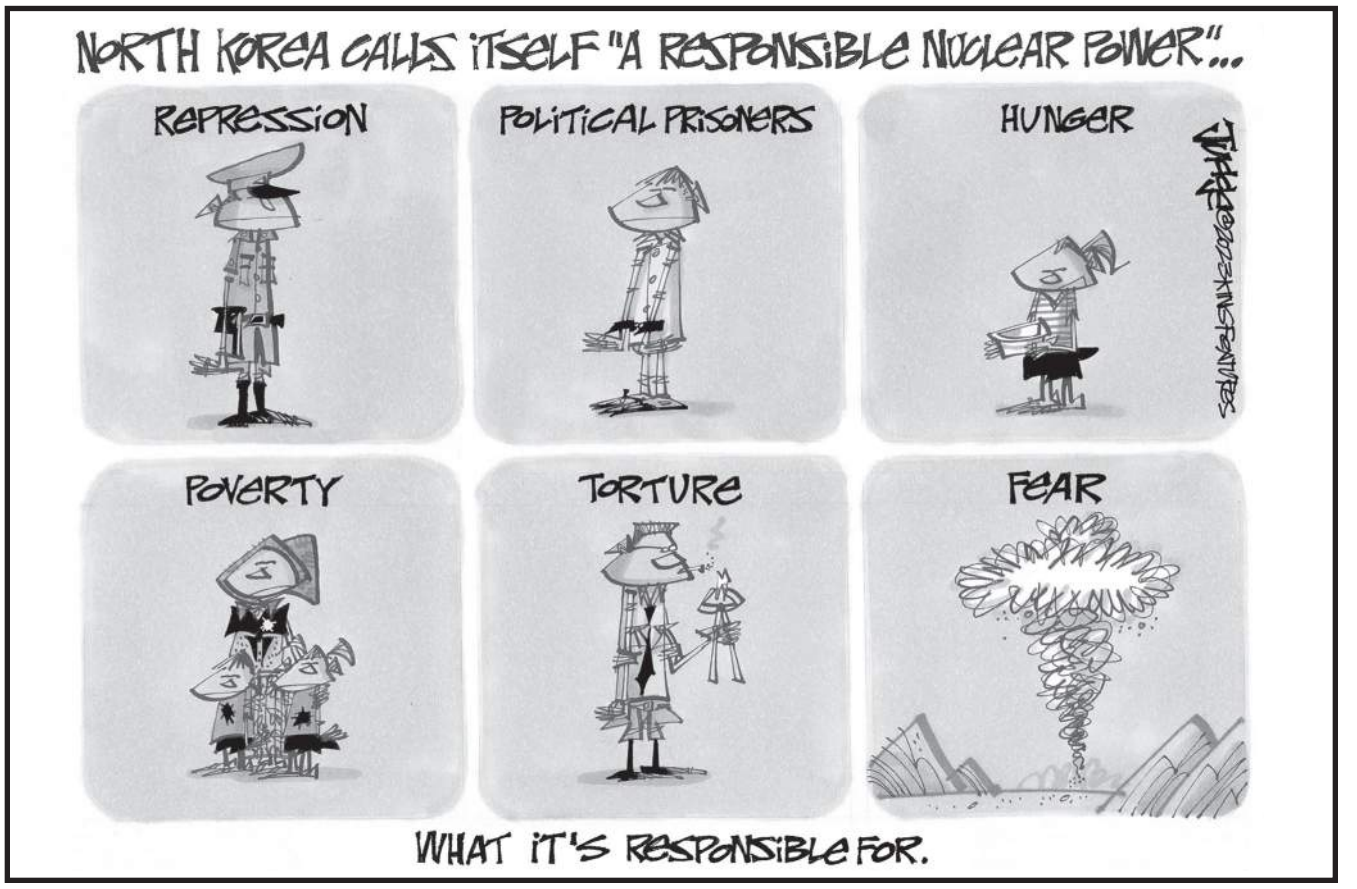
The heat is on

There's a serious angle to all of this, of course. It's grounded in the reality Floridians can feel every time they walk from their (hopefully) air-conditioned homes or offices to their (hopefully) air-conditioned cars. Or wait at bus stops in the full sun. Or pick tomatoes for hours on end.

Or patrol a crowded beach in a long-sleeved polyester shirts and long trousers of dark green, as witnessed on New Smyrna Beach July 4. Sheriff Chitwood, have mercy and get those deputies into shorts and polo shirts ASAP.

Florida is getting hotter. That's not Al-Gorean speculation,

See FLORIDA on Page 9



The Republican Political Paradox—can't win if you don't attack Trump, can't win if you do

By ROBIN ABCARIAN
Los Angeles Times

One of the reliably perplexing things about attempts to bring former President Donald Trump to justice is the enduring loyalty of his MAGA Republican base.

In the days following his third and most consequential criminal indictment, which alleges he conspired to overturn the results of the 2020 free and fair election, a stream of stories underlined that his supporters' confidence in him simply cannot be shaken.

Trump's defenders, including dozens of elected officials who have sworn to uphold the Constitution, put forth various theories about his current legal predicament, all of which absolve him of anything approaching criminal behavior.

The stance can be summed up in the reflexive bleat from Ohio Republican Rep. Jim Jordan: "President Trump did nothing wrong!"

Yes, Trump is innocent until proven guilty, but given the range and gravity of the charges he faces, and the pileup of evidence presented in the indictments, the excuses made for him are mind-boggling:

He is the victim of the Deep State , or of President Biden's Justice Department. The left-wing media is out to get him. As a former president, he has the right to hoard any state secrets he wants. (And he declassified them all anyway!) Anything he has said about the 2020 election is protected by the 1st Amendment. The election really was stolen. And who cares if he tried to protect his image by buying off the porn star he slept with while his wife was home with a newborn? Trump gave us a Supreme Court that overturned Roe vs. Wade!

Trump leads his GOP opponents by around 35 points in most polls.

Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis, his nearest rival, is the only other candidate polling in double digits. Everyone else is a single-digit blip.

Which brings me to the second reliably perplexing thing about the Trump situation. Let's call it the Republican Political Paradox.

For months, most of the candidates seeking to take Trump out in the Republican presidential primary have only gently criticized him, if at all. Some pretend he doesn't exist. Others defend him as if they are auditioning to be on the ticket. But you cannot take down a frontrunner without attacking him.

And if an apparent presidential crime spree isn't a worthy focus of attack, what is? What's left for Trump's rivals to use to differentiate themselves from him? The GOP, after all, long ago tossed out its platform, which these days amounts to "elect Trump" and "own the libs." By defending him, minimizing his alleged crimes or staying silent, Trump's rivals are handing the nomination to him on a silver platter.

I keep hearing pundits bemoan the fact that no one "can figure out" how to run against Trump. That's ridiculous. It's not that they can't figure it out; it's that they refuse to do it. They are afraid of alienating his base, which has shown no sign of fatigue.

By trying to avoid committing political suicide, Trump's GOP rivals are, in fact, committing political suicide.

Take DeSantis, who was supposed to be Trumpier than Trump. Instead, he has absolutely blown his chances to distinguish himself from the pack by defending Trump at almost every turn. After Trump was indicted for keeping classified documents, DeSantis warned of "the weaponization of federal law enforcement." After Trump was indicted for trying to overturn the 2020 election, DeSantis proclaimed: "One of the reasons our country is in decline is the politicization of the rule of law. No more excuses—I will end the weaponization of the federal government."

It's possible that DeSantis' sour disposition and charisma deficit will doom him anyway. But by shielding or ignoring Trump, what alternative, exactly, is he offering Republican voters? He's already proved that, like Trump, he's a drama queen, picking pointless fights with Disney and alienating Black voters to pump up his culture war cred.

Former South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley, after bending the knee to Trump for months, finally got up the nerve to call his legal troubles a "distraction." "We can't keep dealing with this drama," she said, but added nary a discouraging word about the man who has caused it.

And former Vice President Mike Pence has finally awakened from his coma to pronounce that "anyone who puts himself over the Constitution should never be president of the United States." Sorry, Veep. Too little, too late. (And the base still wants you dead.)

Sen. Tim Scott, of South Carolina, may be a favorite of donors, but his sunny disposition puts him at odds with the angry mood of his party.

Only former New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie, former Arkansas Gov. Asa Hutchinson and former U.S. Rep. Will Hurd have had the courage to separate themselves from the pack and tell the truth about the sociopath desperately seeking a return to the White House.

Hurd was heartily booed last month after declaring to a gathering of Iowa Republicans that Trump is only running for president "to stay out of prison."

Here's how far truth-telling has gotten Hurd and the others with voters: Christie is polling at 2.5%; Hutchinson and Hurd at less than 1% each.

"I know, I know," Hurd said before he left the stage in Iowa. "The truth is hard.... But if we elect Donald Trump, we are willingly giving Joe Biden four more years in the White House."

That, friends, is the silver lining of the Republican Political Paradox.

Affirmative action ruling demands earlier intervention for equal college access

By MINERVA CANTO
Los Angeles Times

A few weeks before the Supreme Court ruled that race-based college admission policies were unconstitutional, Florida native Jon Wang claimed on Fox Nation that he was rejected from MIT, Caltech, UC Berkeley and other elite colleges because of affirmative action. His SAT score was 1590 and his GPA was 4.65. Social media buzzed with sympathy, with many claiming that Wang's rejections were proof of the need to ban affirmative action.

I bristled at Wang's reasoning, but did sympathize with his disappointment. My son and his friends—all among the top 15 students in their senior class of about 750—had also received unwelcome news from exclusive colleges in the spring. Most are Asian and my son is Latino. All had GPAs ranging from 4.8 to 4.9, earned in the rigorous International Baccalaureate program, and a well-rounded list of extracurricular activities that included sports, leadership and awards.

Wang was among countless other qualified students, not all of them Asian or white, rejected from dream colleges. That doesn't make him a poster child for the anti-affirmative action movement so much as a typical applicant.

Getting into a top college these days is difficult, even for well-qualified students. Many top schools accept less than 10% of applicants. Applying to college in such competitive times means the effects of the Supreme Court's affirmative action ruling probably will be severe. If my son and his friends faced difficult odds before the ruling, what will admission rates be like when my daughter applies to colleges next year? What will they be for students from less privileged backgrounds?

The only way to counterbalance this dreadful ruling is to ensure students from underrepresented communities have the same educational opportunities much earlier. For now, it's urgent that colleges abandon legacy and other admission policies that favor white and wealthy students. It's encouraging that's starting to happen.

In July, the U.S. Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights opened an investigation into whether Harvard University discriminates on the basis of race and ethnicity in its legacy and donor policies. Aso in July, Wesleyan University joined other selective colleges in ending legacy admissions, which favor students whose relatives are alumni or donors, and tend to be white.

In a blog post explaining the decision, Wesleyan president Michael S. Roth outlined a robust approach the university is taking to ensure a diverse student body. This includes bolstering outreach to community groups, college access programs, community colleges and Title I high schools, which are high schools with higher percentages of lower-income students. Increasing financial aid is a key aspect of the multi-pronged plan to recruit students from more diverse backgrounds.

This is a welcome approach, but ensuring that students have equitable access to the most elite colleges in the United States needs to start much sooner. Affirmative action was a response to the fact that many people face a multitude of inequities throughout their lives, often perpetuated by historical systemic racism such as redlining that impedes wealth accumulation and health.

The race toward college really begins at birth, with research showing that parents who speak more words to their babies spur brain development that leads to better language skills. Imagine how many more words college-educated, stay-at-home parents are able to speak with their babies than immigrant parents working six days a week.

The gap only widens as time marches on. Many believe that students who do not read at grade level by third grade are more likely to drop out of high school. Such dire forecasts play out in various ways. Some students are shuttled toward remedial classes, while those on the other end of the academic spectrum are tested for gifted classes. Such testing should include all students regardless of their academic performance, but often teacher referrals are the decisive factor. There has been a lot of controversy over who is selected for testing and who enrolls in these classes because these higher-level, fast-paced classes often help shape future valedictorians and other high-achievers. In California, enrollment in gifted and talented education (GATE) classes is 11.6% Asian, 7.1% white, 4.7% Latino and 3.5% Black students.

In my kids' school district, the students in gifted classes usually choose to continue high-level studies by enrolling in the IB program in middle and high school. My son's high school is 62% Latino in a student population of 3,000, yet he was just one of three Latinos in the graduating class of about 30 IB students. Of course, my son, a former GATE student, is smart, hardworking and ambitious. But I certainly do not think he's the only Latino student with these qualities.

After the hardships I endured in my childhood as a low-income immigrant, I have worked hard to ensure my kids have the support and guidance they need throughout their schooling. I knew it would be more difficult for them to gain admission to college at a time when there are more applicants than ever at elite colleges, though I never would have anticipated how competitive this process would be. Even my alma mater, USC, has gone from a 69% admittance rate in the 1980s to 9.9% in 2023.

Such odds make it difficult not just for the Jon Wangs of the world, but also and especially underprivileged students. With affirmative action policies gone, universities must get rid of legacy policies, and lawmakers need to ensure that students who start out with fewer resources end up on a level playing field.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

In loving memory: A heartfelt thank you

We bid our loving husband and father, John, farewell with heavy hearts. His departure has left us with an inexplicable sense of loss and sorrow; however, amid this profound grief, our spirits have found solace in the outpouring of humanity.

During this time of reflection, we would like to express our deepest gratitude to everyone who has shared in our grief and offered their support. We greatly appreciate the presence of Lt. Gov. David M. Apatang and Mr. George, House Speaker Edmund S. Villagomez, Rep. Malcolm J. Omar, Ms. Gloria Sablan and the entire families of former governor Lorenzo I. De Leon Guerrero, Judge and Mrs. Kenneth Govendo, Judge and Mrs. Wesley Bogdan, and attorney Joe Hill. We would also like to thank our extended families and friends, both near and far, for their compassion and empathy, including the entire Arriola family, Merced Morales family, and Kimura family, as well as the assistance and care provided by Kagman Fire Station, Dr. Daniel Lamar and Kagman Isla Community Health Center, Marianas Visiting Nurses, Healthcare Specialties, Commonwealth Healthcare Corp., Borja Funeral Home, Island Touch by Philip, Bolis R Us II, Bostonian Bakery, Mr. Erick Van Der Maas and Northern Marianas International School, Ms. Amanda Dunn and Saipan Community Church, Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence and Laila Boyer and Marianas Variety, Ms. Donna Rivera and Saipan Tribune, Mr. Joe Cruz and Cabras Marine Corp., and Ms. Michelle Tomokane, Ms. Deena Sablan, and Saipan Marine Corp. Your collective love and generosity have held us like a warm embrace, reminding us of the connections that go beyond mere physical presence.

While navigating this journey of loss, we hold to the advice John so often gave others: "Enjoy every moment."

May his legacy inspire us to approach life with the same enthusiasm he displayed.

Yasuko, Jian, and Jehn Joyner
Kagman III, Saipan

PEPE BATBON KOANS

Para Fiesta: Watermelon and Snow Cones—A Potential Angel's Quandary

LITERARY NOOK

By JOEY CONNOLLY
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Joey aka Pepe Batbon Connolly is a retired educator who taught in the CNMI, NOLA, and LVNV. He is a sonnet practitioner who enjoys stargazing.

"When one has tasted watermelon, he knows what angels eat."
—Mark Twain

With the remote possibility that I might go to heaven I began to wonder what kind of food and drink they might serve there, even though hell is a more probable location for me. If the main drink served in hell is hot pepper, pickle juice and vinegar served boiling hot every eternally hot day from morning to midnight, I wondered if angels eat watermelon and shave ice all day in heaven?

What Angels Eat is Red, Juicy, and Sweet

Well there is soft delicious Angel Food sponge cake
I've often wondered if any heavenly creatures eat it
this confectionary delicacy is somewhat tricky to bake
I also wonder whether heaven's angels actually need it

There is chocolate Devil's Food cake a delightful treat
a deep dark cocoa dessert pastry with a delicious smell
with chocolate frosting chocolate ice cream a must repeat
tempting fallen angels into a semi-sweet dark caloric hell

Finally, a heavenly fruit perfect for every earthly dwelling
and all the devilish boys and angelic girls spit out its seeds
watermelon fields, farmer's markets, grocery stores selling
a medium size watermelon will fill a small family's needs

Watermelon is "sandia" in Spanish, "chandia" in Chamorro
angels and devils want it yesterday, today, and tomorrow.

Koans : A Cool Hand Hones—Snowcones!

I would build that cone in air
that slushy cone those mounds of ice
and all who slurped would taste it there
and all would shout, Snowcone! Shave ice!
its melting juicy colors rare
piled in shaved mounds so nice
so close your eyes and taste with joy
summer delights for girl and boy
dessert in Polar Paradise.

(some koan poems first published Sept. 1, 2017)

The Hot Pepper Sauce is the Boss

(after W.C. Williams poem, The Red Wheelbarrow)

So many depend upon a hot pepper sauce
splashed without restraint on some fried chicken.
Finadené giya fiesta (pepper sauce for the fiesta)
gayera agupa pupuenge (cockfight tomorrow night)
guaha bula finadené falak (lots of hot pepper sauce to go)
para talonan yan tinola (for the dead cock and chicken soup)
Biba San José yan Biba San Roqué (long live those saints)
yan Biba Pepé Batbon lokkue (Joe the bearded rooster also).

FLORIDA

From page 8

it's just a fact. Extreme heat can kill, and keeping employees safe from that heat will be an increasingly significant duty for employers.

Start with the ties and the hose—things corporate executives can understand, and should know by now are pointless.

And then ask them to give the same consideration to the plight of their rank-and-file employees who need even stronger protections. For those who work outdoors, that should include shade, access to drinking water and working hours that flex around times when the sun is at its most implacable. Another area of immediate concern: Workers in state prisons across Florida, who are increasingly rebellious about roasting in un-airconditioned prisons and are quitting by the dozens.

They need a break. For some, it's increasingly a matter of life or death. Sacrificing ties and pantyhose might seem like a frivolous idea, but if it pushes more employers to consider the greater impacts of heat for all their employees, it's a price worth paying.

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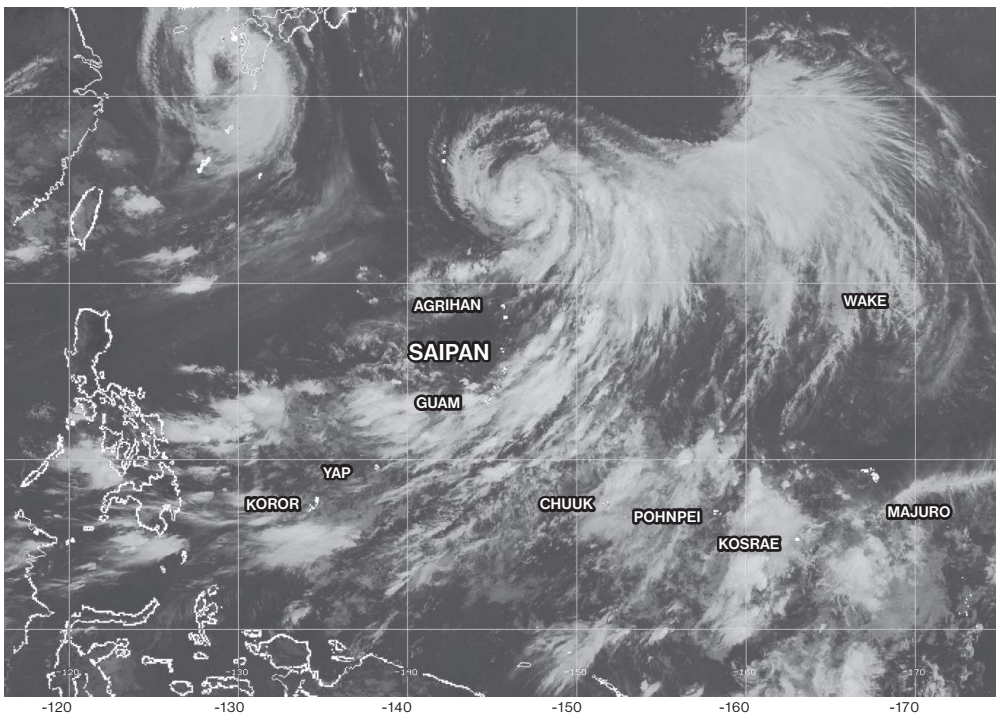
The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
Scattered showers and thunderstorms. Mostly cloudy	Showers likely. Cloudy	Showers likely. Mostly cloudy	Showers likely. Cloudy	Showers likely. Cloudy
85° 79°	85° 79°	86° 79°	85° 79°	84° 79°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 11:48 AM, WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 9, 2023

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A wet weather pattern will persist across the Marianas through the coming weekend.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: https://www.weather.gov/gum/

MICRONESIA		▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Mostly Cloudy	86° / 79°
Palau	Thunderstorm	85° / 78°
Yap	Thunderstorm	86° / 79°
Chuuk	Cloudy	84° / 79°
Pohnpei	Cloudy	86° / 76°
Kosrae	Thunderstorm	86° / 76°
Majuro	Cloudy	87° / 81°

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:01 AM	6:43 PM
Friday	6:01 AM	6:42 PM
Saturday	6:01 AM	6:42 PM
Sunday	6:01 AM	6:41 PM
Monday	6:02 AM	6:41 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	12:31 AM	1:53 PM	-
Friday	1:19 AM	2:49 PM	-
Saturday	2:09 AM	3:43 PM	-
Sunday	3:02 AM	4:35 PM	-
Monday	3:55 AM	5:22 PM	-

AROUND THE GLOBE		▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Showers	61° / 54°
Beijing	Thunderstorms	82° / 72°
Hong Kong	Thunderstorms	90° / 84°
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	90° / 79°
London	Showers	75° / 63°
Los Angeles	Sunny	81° / 64°
Manila	Thunderstorms	88° / 81°
Melbourne	Showers	52° / 45°
Miami	Thunderstorms	89° / 79°
New York	Mostly Sunny	87° / 67°
Osaka	Sunny	95° / 81°
Paris	Showers	84° / 64°
Busan	Partly Cloudy	88° / 79°
Rome	Sunny	97° / 73°
Salem	Mostly Cloudy	92° / 74°
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	65° / 58°
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	97° / 79°
Tokyo	Thunderstorms	91° / 77°
Washington, DC	Mostly Sunny	89° / 66°

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
1:34 AM	High Tide	1.94
9:26 AM	Low Tide	0.21
5:00 PM	High Tide	1.71
9:30 PM	Low Tide	1.44

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF AUGUST 1, 2023

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA117	9:50AM	10:30AM	Daily
UA156	7:10PM	7:55PM	1, 4

SAIPAN- NARITA (NRT)

UA824	7:25AM	9:55AM	1, 3, 5

GUAM-MANILA (MNL)

PR 111	5:55AM	7:55AM	1, 3, 4, 5, 7
PR 111	6:55AM	8:55AM	2, 6
UA193	6:55PM	10:55PM	2, 5 via Palau
UA183	7:15PM	9:10PM	Daily

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ626/703	4:20AM	10:35PM	Daily
7C3403/2305	4:45AM	10:20PM	Daily
UA117/183	9:50AM	9:10PM	Daily via Guam
UA117/193	9:50AM	10:55PM	2, 5 via Guam, Palau

SAIPAN-INCHEON (ICN)

TW308	3:15AM	7:00AM	Daily
OZ626	4:20AM	7:55AM	Daily
7C3403	4:45AM	8:35AM	Daily
TW9308	4:55AM	8:45AM	1, 5
7C3405	4:10PM	7:45PM	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

7C3451	3:20AM	6:30AM	1, 4, 5, 7

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA174	8:00AM	8:50AM	Daily
UA112	5:15PM	6:05PM	1, 4

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

UA825	9:25PM	1:50AM+1	2, 4, 7

MANILA (MNL)-GUAM

UA184	10:25PM	4:25AM+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA192	10:25PM	6:10AM+1	2, 5 via Palau
PR110	10:30PM	4:25AM+1	2, 3, 5, 6, 7
PR110	11:30PM	5:25AM+1	1, 5
UA184	11:50PM	5:50AM+1	2, 5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

OZ702/625	12:05PM	2:55AM+1	Daily
UA184/174	10:25PM	8:50AM+1	1, 3, 4, 6,7 via Guam
UA192/174	10:25PM	8:50AM+1	2, 5 via Palau, Guam
7C2306/3406	11:10PM	3:10PM+1	Daily
UA184/174	11:50PM	8:50AM+1	2, 5 via Guam

INCHEON (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3406	9:30AM	3:10PM	Daily
TW307	8:30PM	2:15AM+1	Daily
OZ625	9:25PM	2:55AM+1	Daily
TW9307	10:00PM	3:45AM+1	4, 7
7C3404	10:10PM	3:40AM+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

7C3452	9:35PM	2:20AM+1	3, 4, 6, 7

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines; PR, Philippine Airlines; TW, T'Way Air; OZ, Asiana Airlines; 7C, Jeju Air; BX, Air Busan • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JUNE 1, 2022

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1301	8:30	9:00	Daily
1302	11:00	11:30	Mon/Wed/Fri
1302	12:00	12:30	Tues/Thurs/Sat/Sun
1303	15:30	16:00	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM

LIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3401	12:00	12:30	Mon/Wed/Fri

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1202	8:00	8:15	Daily
1203	9:00	9:15	Daily
1204	10:00	10:15	Daily
1208	14:00	14:15	Daily
1209	15:00	15:15	Daily
1210	16:00	16:15	Daily
1211	17:00	17:15	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3101	9:30	10:00	Daily
3102	13:00	13:30	Tues/Thurs/Sat/Sun
3102	14:00	14:30	Mon/Wed/Fri
3103	16:30	17:00	Daily

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
4301	13:00	13:30	Mon/Wed/Fri

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
2102	8:30	8:45	Daily
2103	9:30	9:45	Daily
2104	10:30	10:45	Daily
2108	14:30	14:45	Daily
2109	15:30	15:45	Daily
2110	16:30	16:45	Daily
2111	17:30	17:45	Daily

Business

BOH breaks ground on West Pacific Regional HQ

TAMUNING, Guam—A groundbreaking ceremony was held yesterday to celebrate the beginning of construction for Bank of Hawai'i's new West Pacific Regional Headquarters in Tamuning, Guam.

The new headquarters will be built between Personal Finance Center and Shell gas station on Chalan San Antonio. Inside the 18,364-square-foot facility will be ample space for a new branch, The Private Bank, Commercial, Dealer Indirect Lending, Mortgage and Contact Center employees.

There will be 5,147 square feet of dedicated branch space reflecting Bank of Hawai'i's Branch of Tomorrow concept, which launched in 2016. It combines a modern design and a 21st-century banking experience with greater customer convenience including a 24/7 BankLanai® and drive-thru ATM.

The building will also include:

■ Ample parking for customers and employees,

■ Energy-efficient features, such as multi-zone air-conditioning and light sensors to reduce overall energy consumption,

■ Eco-friendly interior and exterior finishes consisting of recycled materials or at least 10% Certified Forest Content, and

■ Its own generator in case of power outages, allowing the building to resume operations as quickly as possible.

■ "This is an exciting day for all of us. Establishing our future West Pacific Regional Headquarters in the heart of Tamuning underscores Bank of Hawai'i's long-term commitment to serving our communities in the West Pacific with the very best customer service, convenience and technology," said Erlinda Alegre, senior vice president and director Branch Market Management.

BOH
A rendering of Bank of Hawai'i's West Pacific Regional Headquarters to be built in Tamuning, Guam

The architect for the West Pacific Regional Headquarters is RIM Architects and the contractor is Sumitomo Mitsui Construction Co., Ltd.

Bank of Hawai'i, which has 51 branches and 315 ATMs system-wide, has been serving the Guam market since 1961. ***(PR)***

People are losing more money to scammers than ever before

» Here's how to keep yourself safe

NEW YORK (AP)—With the help of technology, scammers are tricking Americans out of more money than ever before. But there are steps you can take to keep your money and information safe.

In 2022, reported consumer losses to fraud totaled $8.8 billion—a 30 percent increase from 2021, according to the most recent data from the Federal Trade Commission. The biggest losses were to investment scams, including cryptocurrency schemes, which cost people more than $3.8 billion, double the amount in 2021.

Younger adults ages 20-29 reported losing money more often than older adults ages 70-79, the FTC found. But when older adults did lose money, they lost more. Many retirees have assets like savings, pensions, life insurance policies or property for scammers to target.

With the rise of the digital economy, scammers now reach targets by social media and text, as well as phone and email. Online payment platforms, apps, and marketplaces have also increased opportunities. Still, many of their tactics and strategies are similar.

"The first thing they'll do is get you into a heightened emotional state, because we can't access clear thinking when we're in that state," said Kathy Stokes, director of fraud prevention for the AARP's Fraud Watch Network. "It could be fear, panic, or excitement — 'I just won a million dollars from Publishers Clearing House.'"

Once the sense of urgency is established, the target's defenses are down.

"When approached with urgency, give it an extra three-second pause," said Amanda Clayman, a financial therapist who works with digital payment network Zelle around issues of fraud. "When someone is trying to get us to take action quickly, that's usually a red flag indicating we should do the opposite."

Here's what else to know to keep your money and information safe:

WHAT ARE SOME COMMON SCAMS?

Simply being aware of typical scams can help, experts say. Robocalls in particular frequently target vulnerable individuals like seniors, people with disabilities, and people with debt.

"If you get a robocall out of the blue paying a recorded message trying to get you to buy something, just hang up," aid James Lee, chief operating officer at the Identity Theft Resource Center. "Same goes for texts — anytime you get them from a number you don't know asking you to pay, wire, or click on something suspicious."

Lee urges consumers to hang up and call the company or institution in question at an official number.

Scammers will also often imitate someone in authority, such as a tax or debt collector. They might pretend to be a loved one calling to request immediate financial assistance for bail, legal help, or a hospital bill.

ROMANCE SCAMS

So-called "romance scams" often target ground lonely and isolated individuals, according to Will Maxson, assistant director of the Division of Marketing Practices at the FTC. These scams can take place over longer periods of time -- even years.

Kate Kleinart, 70, who lost tens of thousands to a romance scam over several months, said to be vigilant if a new Facebook friend is exceptionally good-looking, asks you to download WhatsApp to communicate, attempts to isolate you from friends and family, and/or gets romantic very quickly.

"If you're seeing that picture of a very handsome person, ask someone younger in your life — a child, a grandchild, a niece or a nephew — to help you reverse-image search or identify the photo," she said.

She said the man in pictures she received was a plastic surgeon from Spain whose photos have been stolen and used by scammers.

Kleinart had also been living under lockdown during the early pandemic when she got the initial friend request, and the companionship and communication meant a lot to her while she was cut off from family. When the scam fell apart, she missed the relationship even more than the savings.

"Losing the love was worse than losing the money," she said.

WHAT SHOULD I DO ABOUT TEXT AND EMAIL SCAMS?

"I think anyone who has participated in the digital economy has received multiple attempts daily that have some sort of scheme, whether that's, 'Your account has been locked' or 'Your package delivery is delayed,'" Lee said. "Again — just take a breath — and verify."

Lee urges people never to click an unusual link in a text or email, and instead go to the site in question directly, or call the number listed on the official site.

"It'll take 30 or 40 seconds longer, but go ahead and do that because it could save you a lot of money every time," he said.

Some indications to be extra wary could include an unrecognized sender, unusual wording, or a tell-tale misspelling.

In 2022, consumers lost more than $326 million from scam texts alone, according to the Federal Trade Commission.

WHAT ARE OTHER COMMON RED FLAGS?

Gift cards. Both Maxson and Lee said any mention of payment with gift cards should be a blaring warning alarm.

Kleinart, who experienced the romance scam, was also initially asked to send money via gift cards, with varied explanations.

"Just don't pay people with gift cards," Maxson said. "No legitimate company or individual is going to ask you to buy large quantities of gift cards and then read the numbers off the cards. That is exclusively a payment method of fraudsters."

"Let me tell you, the IRS does not accept gift cards," Lee said. "But you'd be surprised by the number of people who fall for people calling from 'fill in the blank agency' or 'fill in the blank company' and who send $500 worth of gift cards."

WHAT ABOUT SOCIAL MEDIA SCAMS?

In addition to romance scams like the one Kleinart fell victim to, here's what to know about other common social media scams:

INVESTMENT SCAMS

According to Lois Greisman, an associate director of marketing practices at the FTC, an investment scam constitutes any get-rich-quick scheme that lures targets via social media accounts or online ads.

Investment scammers typically add different forms of "testimony," such as from other social media accounts, to support that the "investment" works. Many of these also involve cryptocurrency. To avoid falling for these frauds, the FTC recommends independently researching the company— especially by searching the company's name along with terms like "review" or "scam."

QUIZ SCAMS

When you're using Facebook or scrolling Google results, be aware of quiz scams, which typically appear innocuous and ask about topics you might be interested in, such as your car or favorite TV show. They may also ask you to take a personality test.

Despite these benign-seeming questions, scammers can then use the personal information you share to respond to security questions from your accounts or hack your social media to send malware links to your contacts.

To protect your personal information, the FTC simply recommends steering clear of online quizzes. The commission also advises consumers to use random answers for security questions.

"Asked to enter your mother's maiden name? Say it's something else: Parmesan or another word you'll remember," advises Terri Miller, consumer education specialist at the FTC. "This way, scammers won't be able to use information they find to steal your identity."

MARKETPLACE SCAMS

When buying or selling products on Instagram or Facebook Marketplace, keep in mind that not everyone that reaches out to you has the best intentions.

To avoid being scammed when selling via an online platform, the FTC recommends checking buyers' profiles, not sharing any codes sent to your phone or email, and avoiding accepting online payments from unknown persons.

Likewise, when buying something from an online marketplace, make sure to diligently research the seller. Take a look at whether the profile is verified, what kind of reviews they have, and the terms and conditions of the purchase.

Nation

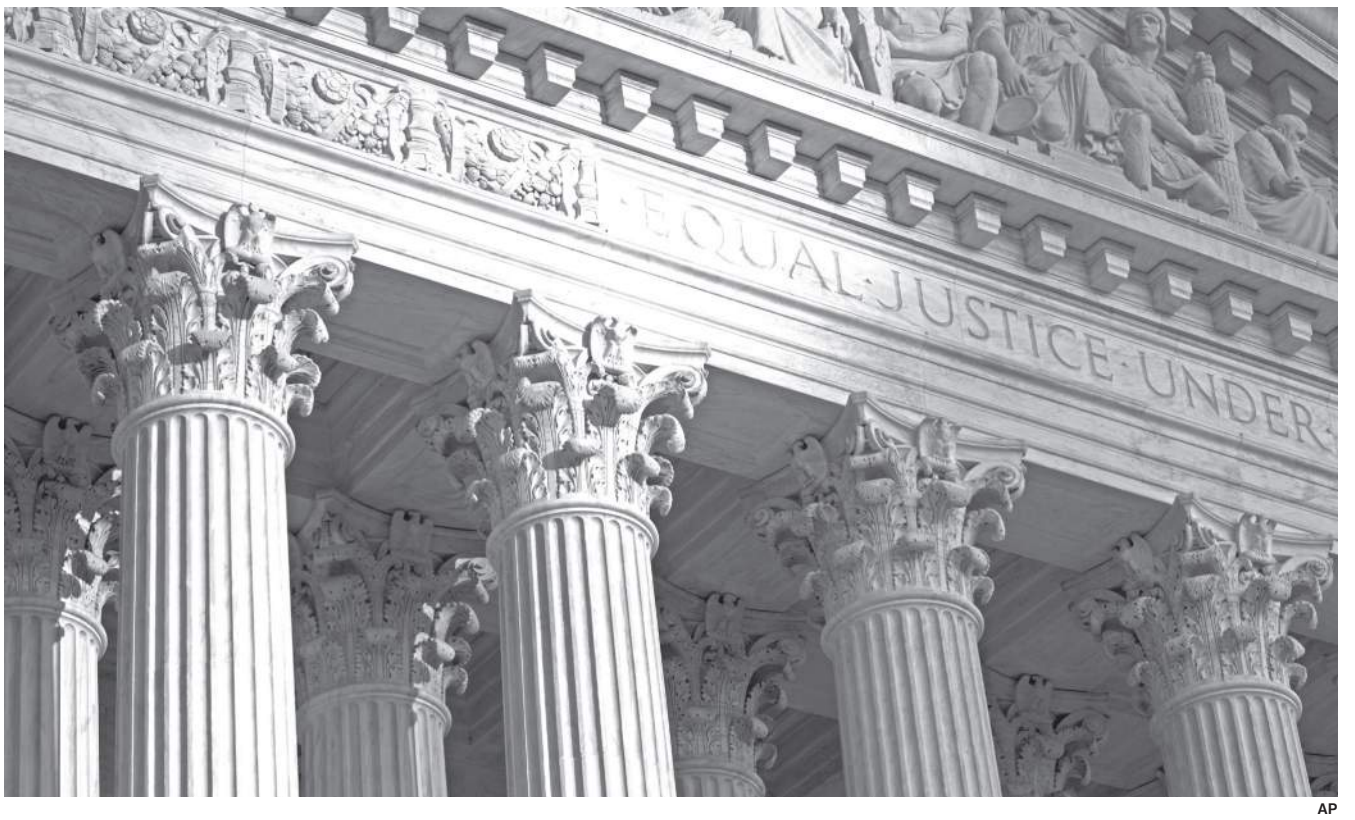
SC reinstates regulation of ghost guns, firearms without serial numbers

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Supreme Court is reinstating a regulation aimed at reining in the proliferation of ghost guns, firearms without serial numbers that have been turning up at crime scenes across the nation in increasing numbers.

The court on Tuesday voted 5-4 to put on hold a ruling from a federal judge in Texas that invalidated the Biden administration's regulation of ghost gun kits. The regulation will be in effect while the administration appeals the ruling to the 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in New Orleans — and potentially the Supreme Court.

Chief Justice John Roberts and Justice Amy Coney Barrett joined with the court's three liberal members to form the majority. Justices Samuel Alito, Neil Gorsuch, Brett Kavanaugh and Clarence Thomas would have kept the regulation on hold during the appeals process. Neither side provided an explanation.

The Justice Department had told the court that local law enforcement agencies seized more than 19,000 ghost guns at crime scenes in 2021, a more than tenfold increase in just five years.



AP

The Supreme Court in Washington is seen at sunset on Oct. 10, 2017. The court on Tuesday voted 5-4 to put on hold a ruling from a federal judge in Texas that invalidated the Biden administration's regulation of ghost gun kits.

"The public-safety interests in reversing the flow of ghost guns to dangerous and otherwise prohibited persons easily outweighs the minor costs that respondents will incur," Solicitor General Elizabeth Prelogar, the administration's top Supreme Court lawyer, wrote in a court filing.

The new rule was issued last year and changed the definition of a firearm under federal law to include unfinished parts, like the frame of a handgun or the receiver of a long gun, so they can be tracked more easily. Those parts must be licensed and include serial numbers. Manufacturers must also run background checks before a sale — as they do with other commercially made firearms. The requirement applies regardless of how the firearm was made, meaning it includes ghost guns made from individual parts or kits or by 3D printers.

The rule does not prohibit people from purchasing a kit or any type of firearm.

U.S. District Judge Reed O'Connor, in Fort Worth, Texas, struck down the rule in late June, concluding that it exceeded the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives' authority. O'Connor wrote that the definition of a firearm in federal law does not cover all the parts of a gun. Congress could change the law, he wrote.

Lawyers for individuals, businesses and advocacy groups challenging the rule told the Supreme Court that O'Connor was right and that the ATF had departed from more than 50 years of regulatory practice in expanding the definition of a firearm.

"We're deeply disappointed that the Court pressed pause on our defeat of ATF's rule effectively redefining 'firearm' and 'frame or receiver' under federal law," Cody J. Wisniewski, general counsel of the Firearms Policy Coalition Action Foundation, said in a statement. "Regardless of today's decision, we're still confident that we will yet again defeat ATF and its unlawful rule at the Fifth Circuit when that Court has the opportunity to review the full merits of our case."

The Giffords Law Center to Prevent Gun Violence, which has long supported regulation of ghost guns, praised the Supreme Court's action. "The challenged rule simply requires that ghost gun kits are regulated like the guns that they are. It will save lives," David Pucino, the group's deputy chief counsel, said in a statement.

PROSECUTOR SAYS:

Navy sailor's mom encouraged him to pass military details to China

SAN DIEGO (AP)—The mother of a U.S. Navy sailor charged with providing sensitive military information to China encouraged him to cooperate with a Chinese intelligence officer, telling her son it might help him get a job with the Chinese government someday, the prosecution said Tuesday.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Fred Sheppard made the accusation at a hearing in federal court in San Diego in urging the judge not to release Jinchao Wei, who was arrested last week on a rarely used espionage charge.

Prosecutors did not name the woman in court. As a result of that The Associated Press could not try to find her or people who could comment on her behalf.

Wei is one of two sailors based in California accused of providing sensitive military information to China — including details on wartime exercises, naval operations and critical technical material. Prosecutors have not said whether the two were courted or paid by the same Chinese intelligence officer as part of a larger scheme.

The Justice Department charged Wei, 22, under a Espionage Act statute that makes it a crime to gather or deliver information to aid a foreign government.

Both sailors have pleaded not guilty.

Prosecutors have said Wei, who was born in China, was first approached by a Chinese intelligence officer in February 2022 while he was applying to become a naturalized U.S. citizen, and admitted to the officer that he knew the arrangement could affect his application. Even so, prosecutors say he provided the officer detailed information on the weapons systems and aircraft aboard the Essex and other amphibious assault ships that act as small aircraft carriers.

In arguing against his release, Sheppard told the court on Tuesday that when Wei went home for Christmas to see his mother, who lives in Wisconsin, she was aware of her son's arrangement. She also encouraged him to keep helping the Chinese intelligence officer because it might get him a job someday with China's Communist party after he leaves the U.S. Navy, Sheppard said.

The AP asked Wei's defense attorney Jason Conforti in an email if he could speak on behalf of Wei's mother and provide a response to the prosecution's allegations. The AP also asked if he could provide contact information for her. The attorney did not immediately respond to the email.

Sheppard told the court that the intelligence officer told Wei that he and the Chinese government were willing to fly him and his mother to China to meet them in person, and that Wei searched online for flights to China this spring.

Sheppard said the officer also told Wei to buy a computer and phone to pass the information, and that if Wei provided a receipt, the Chinese government would reimburse him for the expenses.

Conforti told the court that Wei is not a danger to the community and no longer has access to any military information.

Sheppard countered that Wei's actions put thousands of sailors at risk by revealing sensitive information on Navy ships.

The judge ruled to keep him in federal custody without bond.

The indictment alleges Wei included as many as 50 manuals containing technical and mechanical data about Navy ships as well as details about the number and training of Marines during an upcoming exercise.

Sheppard said Wei has made $10,000 to $15,000 in the past year from the arrangement. If convicted, he could face up to life in prison.

The Justice Department also charged sailor Wenheng Zhao, 26, based at Naval Base Ventura County, north of Los Angeles, with conspiring to collect nearly $15,000 in bribes from a Chinese intelligence officer in exchange for information, photos and videos involving Navy exercises, operations and facilities between August 2021 through at least this May.

The information included plans for a large-scale U.S. military exercise in the Indo-Pacific region, which detailed the location and timing of naval force movements.

USPS cuts air cargo by 90% over 2 years as part of cost-cutting effort

WASHINGTON (AP)—The U.S. Postal Service has reduced its volume of shipments by aircraft by 90% over two years, putting the service on course to save $1 billion in annual transportation costs, U.S. Postmaster General Louis DeJoy said Tuesday.

Shifting packages and envelopes from air cargo to ground transportation was part of DeJoy's larger plan to improve the Postal Service's financial health.

More than 95% of first-class mail and 95% of first-class packages are currently moving through the postal service's ground transportation system, he said.

It is part of DeJoy's broader effort to reduce operating costs, increase revenue from packages, and ensure timely deliveries, along with adjusting prices to mitigate inflation and expanding delivery points over the next 17 months.

Those efforts will have to continue after the Postal Service on Tuesday reported a projected $6 billion in unplanned costs this year because of inflation, unexpected retirement costs and other factors, he told the Board of Governors.

"We continue to manage the costs within our control, such as by reducing work hours by 6 million hours compared to the same quarter last year and by focusing on transportation and other operating costs," Chief Financial Officer Joseph Corbett said.

DeJoy also reported that the Postal Service opened its first regional distribution center in Richmond, Virginia, and plans to open nine more regional centers and renovate 27 local processing centers and 60 additional sorting and delivery centers.

That marks the start of eradicating over $20 billion of deferred maintenance and preparing the Postal Service for the next 30 years, he said.

Asia

ASIAN BRIEFS

Probe: Myanmar military is committing increasingly brazen war crimes

BANGKOK (AP)—Myanmar's military and affiliated militias are committing increasingly frequent and brazen war crimes, including aerial bombings targeting civilians, a group of investigators established by the United Nations said Tuesday. The Independent Investigative Mechanism for Myanmar, or IIMM, said it found strong evidence during the 12 months ending in June that the army and militias indiscriminately and disproportionately targeted civilians with bombs, mass executions of people detained during operations and large-scale burning of civilian houses. The group, which was established by the U.N. Human Rights Council in 2018 to monitor violations of international law in Myanmar, said it is collecting evidence that can be used in future prosecutions of those responsible. "Every loss of life in Myanmar is tragic, but the devastation caused to whole communities through aerial bombardments and village burnings is particularly shocking," said Nicholas Koumjian, head of the group. "Our evidence points to a dramatic increase in war crimes and crimes against humanity in the country, with widespread and systematic attacks against civilians, and we are building case files that can be used by courts to hold individual perpetrators responsible."

India's opposition targets Modi in their no-confidence motion

NEW DELHI (AP)—India's opposition accused Prime Minister Narendra Modi of choosing silence while a northeastern state governed by his party convulsed in ethnic violence as Parliament began debate Tuesday on a no-confidence motion against his government that's certain to be defeated. "If Manipur is burning, India is burning. If Manipur is divided, India is divided," Congress party lawmaker Gaurav Gogoi said as he opened debate on the motion. For three months, Modi has been largely silent on the bloodshed in the remote state, which teeters on the brink of a civil war, and the opposition moved the no-confidence motion to force Modi to address the Manipur conflict from the floor of Parliament. He is expected to speak Thursday when the motion will be put to a vote. Modi's Bharatiya Janata Party-ruled government holds a clear majority in Parliament, meaning the motion is certain to be defeated. Gogoi said the no-confidence motion was never about numbers, but about seeking justice for Manipur. He said Modi's silence showed the failure of his party on a state and federal level, and said Modi "has not uttered a word of condolence" or even appealed for peace in Manipur since the violence began in early May. Top opposition leader Rahul Gandhi is also expected to speak on Tuesday, a day after his parliamentary seat was restored. A fiery critic of Modi and his main challenger in the 2024 polls, Gandhi was expelled from Parliament in March after a court convicted him for defamation over mocking the prime minister's surname.

Japanese political leader Taro Aso calls for peace in Taiwan Strait

TAIPEI, Taiwan (AP)—A senior Japanese politician advocated Tuesday for increasing his country's deterrence ability to ensure peace in the region, and called for that message to be clearly conveyed globally—particularly in China. "The most important thing for us now is that there should be no war in the region, including the Taiwan Strait," the vice president of Japan's ruling Liberal Democratic Party, Taro Aso, said Tuesday in Taipei at the Ketagalan Forum hosted by Taiwan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs. "Japan, as a very close neighbor to Taiwan, I think we should be the first to express our attitude and also to make that message clear in the international community including China," he said. Taiwan and China split in 1949 after a civil war. The island never has been part of the People's Republic of China, but the mainland's ruling Communist Party says it is obligated to unite with China, by force if necessary. In December, Japan announced a historic break with its pacifist defense policy by saying it would adopt offensive capabilities and purchase cruise missiles. Aso, a former prime minister of Japan, said peace and stability in the Taiwan Strait was the consensus of the international community.

Death toll in recent Beijing flooding rises to 33, with 18 still missing

BEIJING (AP)—The death toll in recent flooding in China's capital rose to 33, including five rescuers, and another 18 people remain missing, officials said Wednesday, as much of the country's north remains threatened by unusually heavy rainfall. Days of heavy rain hit areas in the city's mountainous western outskirts especially hard, causing the collapse of 59,000 homes, damage to almost 150,000 others and flooding of more than 15,000 hectares (37,000 acres) of cropland, according to the city government. Scores of roads were damaged, along with more than 100 bridges, Xia Linmao, a Beijing vice mayor, said at a news conference on Wednesday. The casualty and damage numbers were current as of Tuesday, Xia said, adding that rescue efforts remained underway. Given the level of damage, it could take up to three years to restore full functions, Xia said. Other parts of China have also seen heavy flooding, partly from the impact of Typhoon Doksuri over the weekend, leaving dozens dead and missing. Hebei province just outside Beijing has seen some of the region's worst flooding. Floodwaters in Zhuozhou, southwest of Beijing, started to recede Saturday, allowing some of the 125,000 evacuated residents to return to their homes.

9 killed in pair of bombings in Pakistan in attacks claimed by no group

QUETTA, Pakistan (AP)—A roadside bomb struck a vehicle carrying a local politician and his friends in southwestern Pakistan on Monday, killing him and six others, police said. In a separate bombing, two people were killed in the northwest. The attack that killed seven happened in Kech, a town in Baluchistan province, local police officer Haider Ali said. He said that the slain politician, Ishaq Yaqub, was from the Baluchistan Awami Party and it was unclear who was behind the attack. For years, Baluchistan has been the scene of a low-level insurgency by small separatist groups and nationalists who complain of discrimination and demand a fairer share of their province's resources and wealth. The bombing in Baluchistan happened hours after a suicide bomber apparently detonated his explosives-laden vehicle prematurely in a former stronghold of the Pakistani Taliban, killing a married couple in a nearby car, officials said.

World

Ukraine accuses Russia of targeting rescue workers with missile strikes

AP

In this photo provided by the Ukrainian Emergency Service, people carry a wounded person from a damaged building after Russian missile strikes in Pokrovsk, Donetsk region, Ukraine, Monday, Aug. 7, 2023.

KYIV, Ukraine (AP)—Ukrainian officials on Tuesday accused the Kremlin's forces of targeting rescue workers by hitting residential buildings with two consecutive missiles—the first one to draw crews to the scene and the second one to wound or kill them.

The strikes Monday evening in the downtown district of the city of Pokrovsk killed nine people and wounded more than 80 others, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said in his nightly address. According to Ukrainian authorities, one of those killed was an emergency official, and most of those wounded were police officers, emergency workers and soldiers who rushed to assist residents.

The Russian missiles slammed into the center of Pokrovsk in the eastern Donetsk region, which is partially occupied by Russia. Emergency crews were still removing rubble on Tuesday. The Iskander missiles, which have an advanced guidance system that increases their accuracy, hit within 40 minutes of each other, according to Donetsk Gov. Pavlo Kyrylenko said.

Since the start of the war, Russia has used artillery and missiles to hit targets and then struck the exact same spot around 30 minutes later, often hitting emergency teams responding to the first blast. The tactic is called a "double tap" in military jargon. Russians used the same method in Syria's civil war.

"All of (the police) were there because they were needed, putting their efforts into rescuing people after the first strike," Ivan Vyhivskyi, chief of Ukraine's National Police, said Tuesday. "They knew that under the rubble were the injured — they needed to react, to dig, to retrieve, to save. And the enemy deliberately struck the second time."

Russia's Ministry of Defense claimed it hit a Ukrainian army command post in Pokrovsk. Neither side's claims could be independently verified.

Among those injured was Volodymyr Nikulin, a police officer originally from the now Russian-occupied port city of Mariupol.

Arriving at the scene after the first missile strike, Nikulin was wounded in the second strike when shrapnel pierced his left lung and left hand.

UN announces deal with Syria to reopen border crossing from Turkey

UNITED NATIONS (AP)—The United Nations announced late Tuesday that an agreement had been reached with Syria to reopen the main border crossing from Turkey to its rebel-held northwest for six months.

U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres welcomed the "understanding" reached following talks between U.N. humanitarian chief Martin Griffiths and Syrian officials, U.N. deputy spokesman Farhan Haq said.

The agreement will reopen the Bab al-Hawa crossing which has been used for 85% of deliveries to the northwest Idlib region.

Haq's statement followed his earlier announcement Tuesday that Syria has agreed to keep two other crossings to the northwest, Bab al-Salameh and al-Rai, open for three months until Nov. 13.

The U.N. Security Council had failed to adopt either of two rival resolutions on July 11 to authorize further deliveries through the Bab al-Hawa border crossing to Idlib province.

It is home to about 4.1 million people, many of whom have been forced from their homes during the 12-year civil war, which has killed nearly a half million people and displaced half the country's pre-war population of 23 million. Hundreds of thousands of people in Idlib live in tent settlements and had relied on aid that came through the Bab al-Hawa border crossing.

Syrian President Bashar Assad opened the two additional crossing points from Turkey at Bab al-Salameh and al-Rai to increase the flow of assistance to victims of the devastating magnitude 7.8 earthquake that ravaged northwestern Syria and southern Turkey on Feb. 8. He extended their operation for three months in May until Aug. 13.

Haq said the Syrian government informed Griffiths in a letter on Sunday that it would allow the U.N. to continue using the two crossings until Nov. 13.

Syria had set conditions for the renewal of deliveries through Bab al-Hawa, which the U.N. humanitarian office had largely rejected.

Haq's statement gave no details on the agreement reached with the Syrians.

Syria has insisted aid deliveries must be done "in full cooperation and coordination with the government," that the U.N. would not communicate with "terrorist organizations" and their affiliates, and that the International Committee of the Red Cross and the Syrian Arab Red Crescent would run aid operations.

Environment

EUROPEAN SCIENTISTS MAKE IT OFFICIAL:

July was the hottest month on record by far

By SETH BORENSTEIN
AP Science Writer

ANDREEA ALEXANDRU

A man stands in a fountain in Bucharest, Romania, on a hot afternoon, July 25, 2023.

Now that last month's sizzling numbers are all in, the European climate monitoring organization made it official: July 2023 was Earth's hottest month on record by a wide margin.

July's global average temperature of 16.95 degrees Celsius (62.51 degrees Fahrenheit) was a third of a degree Celsius (six tenths of a degree Fahrenheit) higher than the previous record set in 2019, Copernicus Climate Change Service announced Tuesday. Normally global temperature records are broken by hundredths or a tenth of a degree, so this margin is unusual.

The United States is now at a record 15 different weather disasters that caused at least $1 billion in damage this year, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration announced Tuesday. It's the most mega-disasters through the first seven months of the year since the agency tracked such things starting in 1980, with the agency adjusting figures for inflation.

"These records have dire consequences for both people and the planet exposed to ever more frequent and intense extreme events," said Copernicus deputy director Samantha Burgess. There have been deadly heat waves in the Southwestern United States and Mexico, Europe and Asia. Scientific quick studies put the blame on human-caused climate change from the burning of coal, oil and natural gas.

The previous single-day heat record was set in 2016 and tied in 2022. From July 3, each day has exceeded that record. It's been so warm that Copernicus and the World Meteorological Organization made the unusual announcement that it was likely the hottest month days before it ended. Tuesday's calculations made it official.

"We should not care about July because it's a record, but because it won't be a record for long," said Imperial College of London climate scientist Friederike Otto. "It's an indicator of how much we have changed the climate. We are living in a very different world, one that our societies are not adapted to live in very well."

The global average temperature last month was 1.5 degrees Celsius (2.7 degrees Fahrenheit) warmer than pre-industrial times. In 2015, the nations of the world agreed to try to prevent long-term warming—not individual months or even years, but decades—that is 1.5 degrees warmer than pre-industrial times.

Last month was so hot, it was .7 degrees Celsius (1.3 degrees Fahrenheit) hotter than the average July from 1991 to 2020, Copernicus said. The world's oceans were half a degree Celsius (0.9 degrees Fahrenheit) warmer than the previous 30 years and the North Atlantic was 1.05 degrees Celsius (1.9 degrees Fahrenheit) hotter than average. Antarctica set record lows for sea ice, 15% below average for this time of year.

Copernicus, a division of the European Union's space program, has records going back to 1940. July's temperature would be hotter than any month the U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration has recorded and their records go back to 1850. But scientists say it's actually the hottest in a far longer time period.

"It's a stunning record and makes it quite clearly the warmest month on Earth in 10,000 years," said Stefan Rahmstorf, a climate scientist at the Potsdam Institute for Climate Research in Germany. He wasn't part of the Copernicus team.

Rahmstorf cited studies that use tree rings and other proxies that show present times are the warmest since the beginning of the Holocene Epoch, about 10,000 years ago. And before the Holocene started there was an ice age, so it would be logical to even say this is the warmest record for 120,000 years, he said.

While much of the world broiled in July, the United States only had its 11th hottest July in its 129-year record, according to NOAA. But Arizona, Florida, Maine and New Mexico had their warmest Julys on record.

Arizona broke its record by nearly 2 degrees Fahrenheit (1.1 degrees Celsius) and Phoenix averaged 102.8 degrees for the entire month making it the hottest month for any city int he United States, according to NOAA. Death Valley reported its hottest midnight temperature on record with 120 degrees Fahrenheit (48.9 degrees Celsius) on July 17.

How extreme heat takes a toll on the mind and body, according to experts

By SUSAN MONTOYA BRYAN
Associated Press

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. (AP)—The Southwestern U.S. is bracing for another week of blistering temperatures, with forecasters on Monday extending an excessive heat warning through the weekend for Arizona's most populated area, and alerting residents in parts of Nevada and New Mexico to stay indoors.

The metro Phoenix area is on track to tie or to break a record set in the summer of 1974 for the most consecutive days with the high temperature at or above 110 degrees Fahrenheit (43 Celsius). Even the morning low temperatures are tying historic records.

Along the U.S.-Mexico border, federal agents reported that extreme temperatures over the weekend contributed to 45 people being rescued and another 10 dying.

With so many consecutive days of excessive heat, forecasters, physicians and local health officials throughout the Southwest are recommending that people limit their outdoor exposure and know the warning signs of heat illness.

Knowing the signs

From heavy sweating and dizziness to muscle spasms and even vomiting, experts say heat exhaustion and heat stroke are likely to become more common. In coming decades, the U.S. is expected to experience higher temperatures and more intense heat waves.

Heat stroke is the most serious heat-related illness and happens when the body loses its ability to sweat.

The skin gets hot and red, and the pulse quickens as the person's body temperature climbs to 103 F (39 C) or higher. Headaches set in, along with nausea, confusion and even fainting.

Jon Femling, an emergency medicine physician and scientist at the University of New Mexico, said the body tries to compensate by pumping blood to the skin as a way to cool off. And the more a person breathes, the more they lose fluids, becoming increasingly dehydrated.

Important electrolytes like sodium and potassium also can be lost when sweating.

"So one of the first things that happens is, your muscles start to feel tired as your body starts to shunt away," he said. "And then you can start to have organ damage where your kidneys don't work, your spleen, your liver. If things get really bad, then you start to not be perfusing your brain the same way."

Experts say it's important to recognize the signs of heat stroke in others, as people may not realize the danger they're in because of an altered mental state that may involve confusion.

In the case of heat stroke, experts suggest calling 911 and trying to lower the person's body temperature with cool, wet cloths or a cool bath.

With heat exhaustion, the body can become cold and clammy. Other signs include heavy sweating, nausea, muscle cramps, weakness and dizziness. Experts say the best thing to do is to move to a cool place, loosen clothing and sip some water.

Older people, children and those with health conditions can face greater risks when the temperatures are high.

During extreme heat events, one of the most common ways people can die is from cardiovascular collapse, experts said, because of the extra energy the heart has to expend to help the body compensate for the hot temperatures.

In general, health officials say staying indoors, seeking air-conditioned buildings and drinking more water than usual can stave off heat-related illnesses. Caffeine and alcohol are no-nos. Eating smaller meals more often throughout the day can help.

Learning the limits

Researchers at Arizona State University are trying to better understand the effects of extreme heat on the body and what makes hot weather so deadly.

They're using a special thermal mannequin called ANDI that is outfitted with nearly three dozen different surface areas that are individually controlled with temperature sensors and human-like pores that produce beads of sweat.

"A lot of research that I and my colleagues do is just really focused on understanding how people are responding to higher levels of extreme heat over longer periods of time and then what we can do about it," said Jenni Vanos, an associated professor at ASU's School of Sustainability.

There are 10 thermal mannequins in existence, with most used by athletic clothing companies for testing. ASU's manikin is the first that can be used outdoors thanks to a unique, internal cooling channel.

The university also has developed a new "warm room," or heat chamber where researchers can simulate heat-exposure scenarios from around the globe. Temperatures can reach 140 F (60 C) inside the room—and wind and solar radiation can be controlled for experiments.

Vanos said measuring short- and long-wave radiation in the environment can also tell researchers how much a surface—or a person—in a specific location of a city would heat up.

"And so under these extreme conditions, what's going to really be able to be modified or changed within the urban environment is shade," she said. "In a place like Phoenix or really any sunny hot area, shade is a really critical factor to be able to reduce that overall heat load of the human body."

Finding relief

While air conditioners are cranked up and fans are blowing full blast, residents across the region are anxiously awaiting the start of the monsoon season, hoping it will help to keep the heat at bay.

But so far, the summer thunderstorms—which usually bring cloud cover, lightning and downpours to the Southwestern desert—are absent due to the ongoing El Niño weather pattern, National Weather Service meteorologist Sam Meltzer said.

"It looks like things are going to be abnormally dry over the next couple of months," Meltzer said, noting that storms that might break the heat depend on wind patterns drawing moist air from the Gulf of California into Arizona, New Mexico and Nevada.

"But that doesn't mean we aren't going to get thunderstorm activity," Meltzer said. "It just might be delayed."

Meltzer worked in Phoenix before transferring last winter to Las Vegas. He noted that while temperatures rose last month in the Phoenix area, June stayed abnormally cool in southern Nevada.

The official daytime temperature at Harry Reid International Airport in Las Vegas remained below 100 F (37.8 C) for a record 294 days before temperatures reached 102 F (38.9 C) on June 30. The previous record of 290 days, from 1964 to 1965, had stood for 58 years.

Still, it's not just the air temperature that people need to worry about, Vanos said. Humidity can make it more difficult for the body to use sweating as a way to cool off.

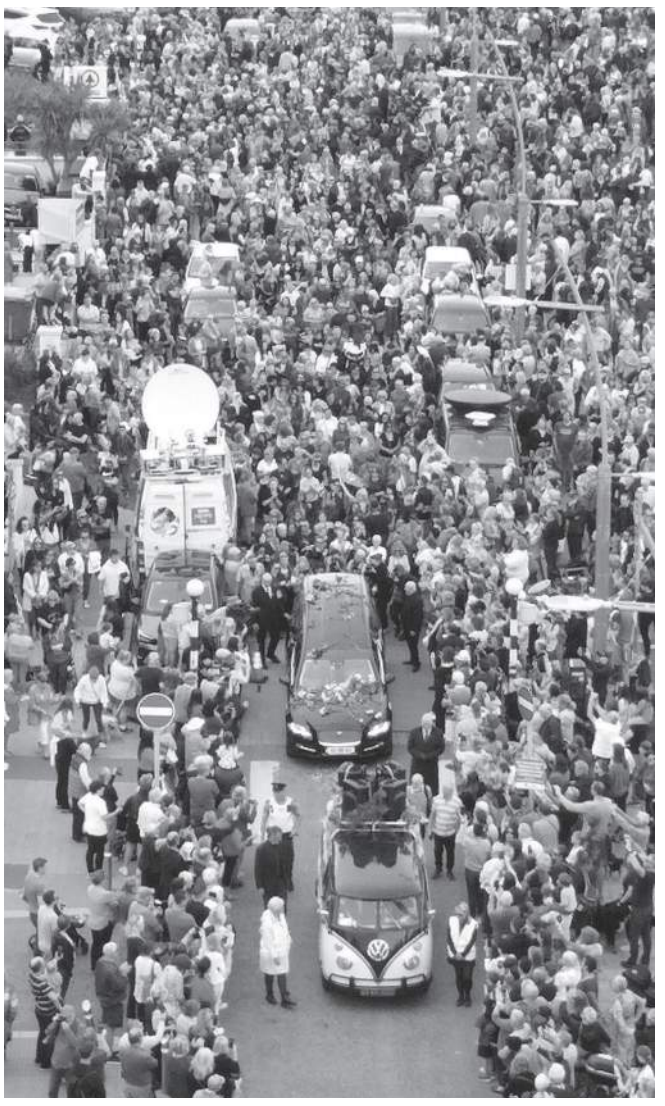
Life & Style

Mourners in Ireland pay their respects to Sinéad O'Connor

LONDON (AP)—Sinéad O'Connor was remembered Tuesday for bringing "joy to countless people the world over" and then honored by emotional fans who thronged the streets of the Irish coastal town she had called home. They sang "Nothing Compares 2 U" as a hearse passed by carrying the singer's casket to its final resting place.

The funeral held for loved ones and friends reflected her spirituality and the impact she had on her homeland and the music world. Irish Prime Minister Leo Varadkar and President Michael Higgins attended along with musical luminaries such as Bono of U2 and Bob Geldof of the Boomtown Rats.

But the procession to a cemetery for a private burial reflected the broader impact of her life on devotees moved by her pure voice and emotional depth and touched by her sometimes troubled life.



AP

Fans of singer Sinead O'Connor line the streets as her funeral cortege passes through her former hometown of Bray, Co Wicklow, Ireland, Tuesday, Aug. 8, 2023.

Hundreds of people made the pilgrimage to her former home in Bray, the seaside village south of Dublin where O'Connor lived for 15 years before she recently moved to London, where she was found dead in her home last month.

They sang, they cried, they tossed flowers on the hearse and laid their hands on the vehicle when it came to a stop outside the white house with its distinctive pink entrance and a corner painted in the alternating green, yellow and red of the Rastafarian flag. Bouquets of flowers and written tributes were laid against the stone wall outside.

"She was adored by everyone in all her talent and beauty, and the voice she gave to us when we weren't able to say the things that were happening to us," said Simone George, who had listened to O'Connor since she was a girl. "She was able to be brave and I think that's why this is really painful for people in a way: that it isn't just a celebrity, it isn't any other artist. I think she symbolizes something very different for Irish people."

A vintage VW camper van with rooftop speakers blasting some of the singer's best-known songs led the hearse at walking pace through the thick crowd of admirers in the town. It was playing "Natural Mystic," by Bob Marley, her hero, as the procession stopped outside her former home and was greeted with lengthy applause.

O'Connor, who was raised Catholic and became a controversial figure after she tore up a photo of Pope John Paul II on Saturday Night Live in 1992, later converted to Islam. An imam delivered a eulogy that bridged both worlds.

Shaykh Dr. Umar Al-Qadri of the Islamic Center of Ireland said O'Connor had "brought diverse souls together through her art" as he "bid farewell to a remarkable soul who touched us all."

"Gifted with a voice that moved a generation of young people, she could reduce listeners to tears by her otherworldly resonance," he said in the eulogy posted online. "The Irish people have long found solace in song from the sufferings of this lower abode, and Sinéad was no exception, and in sharing that solace, she brought joy to countless people the world over."

A group that had been waiting well over an hour outside O'Connor's former home, singing her songs at times, snapped photos through the windows of the hearse where her coffin was dwarfed by a pile of blue hydrangeas and pink roses. A black and white photo of the younger singer smiling with her trademark shaven head and her large eyes could be seen through the rear window.

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Taylor Swift and SZA lead 2023 MTV Video Music Award nominations

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Taylor Swift tops the 2023 MTV Video Music Awards nominations.

She leads with eight—seven for her "Anti-Hero" music video and a nod in the artist of the year category—followed by SZA, who has six, MTV announced on Tuesday. Swift currently has 14 VMAs to her name, placing her behind Beyoncé, who has 28 (two with Destiny's Child), Madonna, who has 20 awards, and Lady Gaga, who has 19. Beyoncé is also nominated for artist of the year.

Singer Ciara expecting fourth child, her third with Russell Wilson

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The Grammy-winning performer Ciara is expecting her fourth child, her third with husband and Denver Broncos quarterback Russell Wilson, a representative for the singer confirmed to The Associated Press. Ciara broke the news in a video announcement on her Instagram, revealing her pregnant silhouette in front of a pool. She wrote in the caption, "You look at me like that again, we make another kid… You my heart I'm your rib." The clip is soundtracked by "How We Roll," her 2023 collaboration with Chris Brown.

Jay-Z's Made In America fest canceled due to 'severe circumstances'

Jay-Z 's annual Made in America festival, scheduled for next month in Philadelphia, has been canceled. "Due to severe circumstances outside of production control, the 2023 Made in America festival will no longer be taking place," the festival shared in a statement on social media. Made in America had been scheduled for Sept. 2-3 on the Benjamin Franklin Parkway with Lizzo and SZA as the headliners. "This decision has been difficult and has not been made lightly nor without immense deliberation. Made in America has a legacy of delivering exceptional experiences for music fans and concert goers, and it is our commitment to always deliver a top-tier festival experience." ***(AP)***

Tory Lanez gets 10 years in prison for shooting Megan Thee Stallion

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A judge sentenced rapper Tory Lanez to 10 years in prison Tuesday for shooting and wounding hip-hop superstar Megan Thee Stallion in the feet, bringing a conclusion to a three-year legal and cultural saga that saw two careers, and lives, thrown into turmoil. Los Angeles Superior Court Judge David Herriford handed down the sentence to the 31-year-old Lanez, who was convicted in December of three felonies: assault with a semiautomatic firearm; having a loaded, unregistered firearm in a vehicle and discharging a firearm with gross negligence. From the initial incident in the Hollywood Hills in July of 2020, to the marathon two-day sentencing hearing, the case created a firestorm in the hip-hop community, churning up issues including the reluctance of Black victims to speak to police, gender politics in hip-hop, online toxicity, protecting Black women and the ramifications of misogynoir, a particular brand of misogyny Black women experience.

Young nephew always inserted into adult gatherings

DEAR ABBY: My brother is 53. He has one child, my 12-year-old nephew, "Conner." Our father was difficult, and neither of us has many happy memories of times we shared with him. Perhaps in response to this, my brother seems incapable of socializing without his son. Many times, he suggests outings to my husband or his friends and then throws in that he's planning on bringing Conner. We do not want the boy included in what should be adult outings, but we can't find a way of saying it. If I'm planning a dinner out or something else where I think he might invite his son, I preface it with a grownups-only clause. I can't discuss it with my sister-in-law because even though I know she would understand, she wouldn't be tactful in mentioning it to my brother. My husband is not the type to say anything; it would mean more coming from him, but he doesn't want to cause upset. By the way, my brother is very outgoing and socially adept, so it's not like he needs this 12-year-old crutch. Any suggestions would be most appreciated.

FRUSTRATED IN NEVADA

DEAR FRUSTRATED: Your brother may not need a social crutch, but from what you have described, the same may not be true of your nephew. Most 12-year-old boys have friends they can socialize with other than Dad. Is that true of Conner, or would he be sitting alone in his room if his father didn't insert him into so many adult gatherings? Rather than tell your brother or his wife that the boy is unwelcome, it might be more helpful to ask whether Conner has difficulty socializing with his peers. If that's the case, he may need professional help.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I have a sister-in-law who constantly one-ups me. Anything I mention, she has to chime in and let everyone present know how much better her trip was, or that she got a better shopping deal, etc.

It has now turned to my grandchildren. For example, at a family dinner, if I correct their table manners, she comes back with a smart comment like, "You can leave your elbows on the table" or "It's OK to eat that with your fingers." She's trying to be the "fun aunt." Recently I barked right back, asking her not to undermine my comments about my grandkids' behavior. She did not reply. I do not want to harm our otherwise decent relationship. She has no grandkids of her own yet and occasionally babysits my grandkids. Is there something better I can do?

HAD IT UP TO HERE IN IOWA

DEAR HAD IT: Talk to your sister-in-law and lay down some ground rules. Tell her that as much as you care about her, there are certain parameters it is important that she understand in her interactions with the grandkids. Explain what they are. If "Fun Auntie" cannot respect the boundaries, she should see them less often. Not enough young people these days are fortunate enough to have parents (and grandparents) who teach them appropriate manners. Kudos to you.

■ ■ ■

To receive a collection of Abby's most memorable – and most frequently requested – poems and essays, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby – Keepers Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

DEAR ABBY

By Abigail Van Buren
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Pastimes

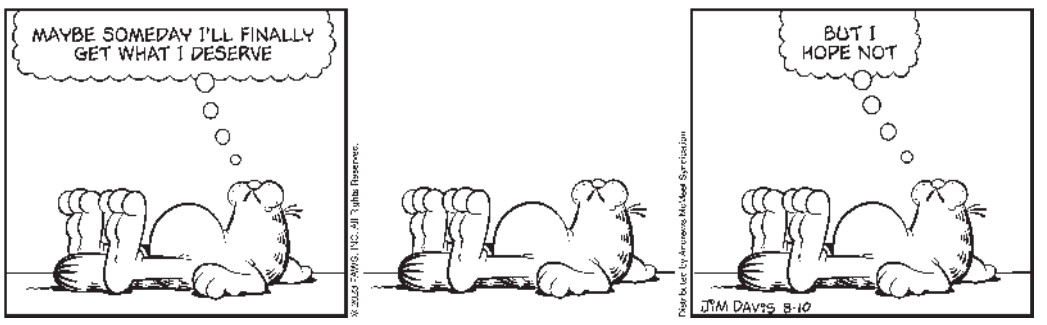
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

LET'S STROLL OVER THIS WAY ONCE AGAIN, HOBBES!
YES, LETS!
IT'S A GOOD THING YOU HAVE THAT TOP SECRET, CODED LETTER, HOBBES! IT WOULD BE AWFUL IF YOU HAPPENED TO DROP IT NEAR SUSIE ONE MORE TIME!
IF I WERE SUSIE, AND I FOUND THE LETTER, I'D PICK IT UP AND DECODE IT, SO I COULD RUIN ALL OUR PLANS! THAT WOULD SURE BE BAD FOR US!
IT WORKED! SHE'S OPENING THE LETTER!
GOOD. I WAS AFRAID WE'D HAVE TO HIT HER ON THE HEAD AND READ IT TO HER.

Garfield®

By Jim Davis



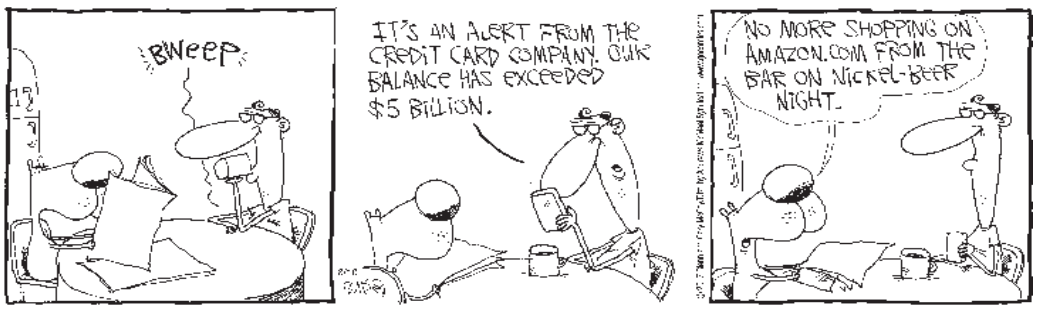
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

COASTER WORLD, HERE WE COME!
OH, JOY.
CLAYTON AND DAD! OFF TO CURE HIS LIFELONG FEAR OF COASTERS!
OR, Y'KNOW, WE COULD JUST...
DAD AGAIN. I DON'T WANT TO GO TO CRACKER BARREL INSTEAD.
THEY HAVE CANDY AND TRINKETS! YOU LOVE TRINKETS!

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy


BWeep
IT'S AN ALERT FROM THE CREDIT CARD COMPANY. OUR BALANCE HAS EXCEEDED $5 BILLION.
NO MORE SHOPPING ON AMAZON.COM FROM THE BAR ON NICKEL-BEER NIGHT.

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Roman god of love
5 Jaden, to Will
8 Miles away
12 Be slack-jawed
13 Sundial numeral
14 Cisterns
15 Hgt.
16 Patient's need, briefly
17 Body sci.
18 Singer/songwriter Neil
20 Grand tale
22 Grammy-winning "Family Affair" singer
26 Maudlin
29 Dawn goddess
30 Nemesis
31 Unrepaired
32 Indent key
33 Wall Street optimist
34 Holy Fr. woman
35 "Le Coq —"
36 Winter woes
37 "Queen of —" (nickname of 22-Across)
40 Cask sediment
41 Ruling periods
45 Bake sale orgs.
47 Shell game item
49 Prez's backup
50 Millinery
51 Under the weather
52 Early Peruvian
53 Curved molding
54 Refusals
55 Requests

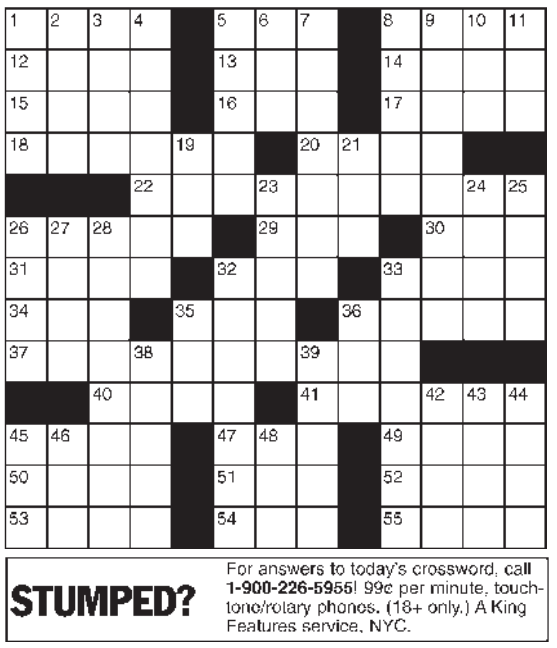
DOWN

1 Mellows
2 Like ganders
3 Pundit's piece
4 Overhauls
5 "Norwegian Wood" instrument
6 Peanut product
7 "Great work!"
8 Use
9 Imaginary
10 One-time link
11 Letters after Q
19 Singer Starr
21 "Nova" airer
23 Decade parts
24 First-place medal
25 Congers
26 Obi
27 Italian wine region
28 Baking dish
32 Tennis tactic
33 Chile neighbor
35 Fawn's mom
36 Prompt
38 "Siddhartha" author
39 Pre-diploma hurdles
42 Pentagon VIPs
43 Bottle part
44 Relaxing resorts
45 Saigon soup
46 Label
48 "Evil Woman" band

Solution time: 24 mins.

			T	A	P			B	B	C		
		P	E	R	U		T	O	U	R	S	
S	I	T	A	R			A	R	R	O	W	S
H	E	R	B	I	E	H	A	N	C	O	C	K
E	T	A		T	N	O	T	S		O	R	E
			C	A	G	E			S	N	A	G
		P	A	I	N	S		C	R	I	S	P
L	A	V	A				R	A	I	N		
F	N	O		T	R	A	P	S		I	M	S
I	T	W	A	S	A	G	O	O	D	D	A	Y
	S	E	D	A	T	E			T	R	E	N	D
		D	A	R	E	D			T	E	A	S
			M	S	S			O	I	L		

Yesterday's answer 8-10



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Josh Gates, 46; Justin Theroux, 52; Antonio Banderas, 63; Rosanna Arquette, 64.

Happy Birthday: Listen to your inner voice, and take the road that leads to a better place. Refuse to let the decisions others make decide your next move. Think for yourself, and only make changes that feel comfortable. Revisit joint ventures, and revise outdated agreements that stop you from moving forward. Be reasonable, but don't lose sight of your needs and goals. Make your happiness a priority. Your numbers are 5, 17, 21, 28, 33, 46, 48.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* Utilize your experience to surpass your expectations. Don't settle for less when you can achieve much more with extra effort. Trust and believe in yourself instead of letting someone else do it for you. A personal pick-me-up will build confidence. Romance is favored. ✪✪✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* Don't hold back; say what's on your mind and put your attributes to good use. A high-energy approach will help you take care of your responsibilities and prove yourself to anyone who doubts your ability. Don't let emotions take precedence over common sense. ✪✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* Gather your thoughts. Don't say something you'll regret. Keep busy; idle time will lead to poor decisions and emotional setbacks. Consider what you can do to make your home more functional, or give yourself a makeover that lifts your spirits. ✪✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* It's OK to be different. Stretch your imagination and take a unique approach to work and personal responsibilities. Think situations through while hiding your emotions, and you'll dodge criticism from someone who likes to interfere with your life choices. Personal gain is apparent. ✪✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* Address an unpredictable situation cautiously. Don't feel you have to follow someone else's lead. When in doubt, put your foot on the brake. Pay more attention to what you can do to help others, and make a difference in your community. ✪✪✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* Play it safe when dealing with work, partnerships and personal goals. Not everyone you encounter will have the same intentions. Hide your emotions, eliminate vulnerability and be resourceful in creating a scenario that conditions you to take advantage of what's available. ✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* Go through the open door. Stop fighting roadblocks; taking the path of least resistance will make it easier to get the elements to bend to your way of thinking. Simplicity and common sense will get you where you want to go. ✪✪✪✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* Take better care of yourself, your position and the prospects you are trying to achieve. Step outside your comfort zone and dress up your ideas with marketable trends; you will come out on top. Avoid emotional spending and buying favors. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* Be smart; refuse to let a fast-talker propel you in a direction based on unproven information. It's time to balance your time between work and play and to honor what your body craves. Promote good health and better relationships. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* Keep your financial affairs to yourself. Be a good listener, and you'll gain access to inside information that can lead to a healthy investment. Home improvements or making a move will lead to unexpected opportunities and insight into future trends. Avoid health risks. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* Put your heart and soul into what moves you. If someone invites you to get involved in a risky scheme, take a pass. Pay attention to how loved ones respond to your opinions and options. Don't let your emotions cloud your vision. ✪✪✪✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* Try to keep the peace. A disciplined approach to how you live and let people treat you will make a difference in the outcome of a sensitive situation. You'll be prone to overestimating or underestimating if you allow your emotions to take over. ✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are fun-loving, kind and generous. You are reliable and proactive.

✪: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ✪✪: You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. ✪✪✪: Focus and you'll reach your goals. ✪✪✪✪: Aim high; start new projects. ✪✪✪✪✪: Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

		5		7			9	
8						5		4
	9				8	3		
4			8	1		2	3	
		8		2			7	6
7			4	9			1	2
	8		1	6			4	
			3					

Difficulty: ★★★ 8/10

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

2	4	8	7	1	5	9	3	6
9	6	7	4	3	8	1	5	2
1	3	5	2	6	9	7	4	8
3	2	1	9	8	6	5	7	4
4	7	6	5	2	3	8	9	1
5	8	9	1	4	7	2	6	3
7	1	3	6	5	2	4	8	9
8	9	4	3	7	1	6	2	5
6	5	2	8	9	4	3	1	7

Difficulty: ★★★ 8/9

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WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

THE IOWA STATE FAIR Solution: 10 letters

E	T	N	E	M	N	I	A	T	R	E	(T)	(N)	(E)	(T)
S	X	R	W	S	N	O	I	T	C	A	R	T	T	A
R	R	H	E	O	H	C	I	S	U	M	H	G	P	G
I	T	O	I	C	T	O	A	N	E	R	A	R	O	R
L	A	S	D	B	N	W	R	N	P	H	L	D	U	I
E	L	S	E	N	I	O	M	S	E	D	L	R	L	C
Y	L	I	R	B	E	T	C	R	E	S	I	E	T	U
B	L	E	B	T	H	V	I	F	H	S	R	E	R	L
U	E	T	Y	E	P	T	A	O	S	Y	H	N	Y	T
T	W	A	A	F	A	R	M	R	N	L	T	O	N	U
T	L	T	E	G	R	A	L	E	C	I	N	I	E	R
E	E	S	E	R	A	C	E	S	A	M	A	P	L	E
R	I	D	E	S	D	A	R	T	M	A	Y	T	A	G
K	C	O	T	S	E	V	I	L	P	F	O	O	D	D
C	O	N	T	E	S	T	S	E	R	C	L	L	I	H

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Agriculture, Arena, Attractions, Best, Bill, Butter, Camp, Concert, Contest, Cow, DART, Derby, Des Moines, Elwell, Entertainment, Exhibition, Family, Farm, Food, Forest, Hall, Heritage, Hillcrest, Horseshoe, Large, Livestock, Lyon, Maple, Maytag, Music, Parades, Pioneer, Poultry, Races, Rides, Riley, Sheep, State, Tent, Theater, Thrill, Town, Vendors

Yesterday's Answer: John Wick

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France ends Morocco's run and advances to quarterfinals

ADELAIDE, Australia (AP)—France coach Herve Renard high-fived his staff on the sideline as it became clear his team was on its way to the quarterfinals of the Women's World Cup.

Only 23 minutes had been played at Adelaide's Hindmarsh Stadium on Tuesday, but France was already 3-0 up against Morocco and on course for a showdown with co-host Australia.

The French scored once more in the second half to win 4-0 and end Morocco's historic debut run at the World Cup.

"The result speaks for itself," Renard said. "We were able to score four times and now we've got a foot in the door for the quarterfinals. Things are getting a little bit heated. Only eight teams left in the running. The objective now is to pull off the best performance that the French team has ever done."

France took fourth place in 2011 and this is the fourth straight time it has advanced to the quarterfinals of the World Cup.

A three-goal burst in nine minutes took the game away from Morocco, with Kadidiatou Diani, Kenza Dali and Eugenie Le Sommer all scoring early in the match.

Le Sommer, who is France's all-time leading scorer, headed in a fourth in the 70th minute to complete the win. She has now scored 92 goals for her country — more than any French player, male or female.

"Her game was exceptional," Renard said. "Her legs, it was as if she was 25... I hope that this lasts. Each time I'm actually blown away by what she's capable of doing."

Renard knows France has a sizable task to get past Australia when the teams meet in Brisbane on Saturday for a place in the semifinals.

AP

France's Kenza Dali is congratulated by teammate Kadidiatou Diani, right, after scoring her team's second goal during the Women's World Cup round of 16 soccer match between France and Morocco in Adelaide, Australia, Tuesday, Aug. 8, 2023.

France lost a friendly to the Matildas leading into the tournament. But Renard said the pressure of being a co-host, along with New Zealand, could weigh heavily on the Australians in front of their home fans.

France was eliminated as hosts in the quarterfinals in 2019.

"It can be hugely disappointing, and it was for France when they were knocked out in the quarterfinals," Renard said. "And we are hoping to put Australia through exactly what France went through when they were the host country... We've come with great ambition and if you come with great ambition you need to be capable of beating the best teams."

Morocco's tournament is over after it became the first Arab nation to advance to the knockout stage.

The Atlas Lions were also the first Arab team to register a win at the Women's World Cup by beating South Korea in the group stage. They followed that by upsetting group winner Colombia to advance to the round of 16 at the expense of No. 2-ranked Germany.

But overcoming France, one of the tournament favorites, was a step too far for Reynald Pedros' team.

"I'm not disappointed, because we got to the round of 16. This was our first World Cup and we knew that the further in the competition we got, the harder it would be," Pedros said.

He added that his team's success was even more remarkable than Morocco's historic semifinals run at the men's World Cup last year.

"Let's not forget that three years ago we were just putting together a women's team in Morocco," he said.

Diani opened the scoring for France in the 15th minute when she was left unmarked in front of goal to head in Sakina Karchaoui's cross from the left.

It was Diani's fourth goal of the tournament after her hat trick in France's 6-3 win over Panama in its final Group F match.

Dali scored five minutes later after Diani cut back from the right. Dali struck a first-time shot low into the corner to beat Morocco goalkeeper Khadija Er-Rmichi.

And France was 3-0 up when Diani blocked the attempted clearance of Nesryne El Chad into the path of Le Sommer to convert.

Le Sommer got a second goal when she headed it in at the far post from Vicki Becho's looping cross with 20 minutes left in regulation.

Australia advanced to the quarterfinals with a 2-0 win over Denmark. Star striker Sam Kerr returned from a calf injury to make her first appearance at this World Cup. She was a second-half substitute against the Danes.

COLOMBIA 1, JAMAICA 0

MELBOURNE, Australia (AP)—Colombia's players danced and sang on the field long after the team secured its historic first-ever trip to the Women's World Cup quarterfinals.

Catalina Usme's second-half goal gave Colombia a 1-0 win over Jamaica. Both teams were aiming for a first victory in the knockout stage, with the winner moving on to the last eight at soccer's biggest tournament.

"After the goal went into the net, I had all sorts of emotions," Usme said. "During all the years in women's football, it's such a beautiful moment, giving us the possibility to make history for our country. But we can go beyond. We came here to play seven finals. And we need to go step by step."

Colombia, a team that didn't even qualify for the 2019 tournament, played a physical, scrappy match. Linda Caicedo, the team's 18-year-old sensation who plays for Real Madrid, created opportunities and tested a Jamaica defense that didn't concede a goal in the group stage.

Colombia moves to Sydney for a Saturday knockout match against European champion England, which advanced on penalties after a scoreless draw with Nigeria.

"The game against England, we came here to play seven finals," Usme said. "We're certain in our preparations. We're dreaming big. We know we can pull it off. We can do it."

Usme yelled in celebration after trapping a long pass from Ana Guzman and calmly finishing in the 52nd minute. When she was subbed off late in the game, the Colombia fans chanted her name and she bowed to the crowd.

Even when speaking to reporters afterward, Guzman and teammate Jorelyn Carabali broke into song.

The match in Melbourne was an anticipated showdown between Caicedo and Jamaican Khadija "Bunny" Shaw. In the end, though, it was Usme's emphatic goal that made the difference.

"We are three games away, but each time we get closer to the beautiful trophy that we really dream of. It's difficult but not impossible," Caicedo said. "I know we can do it, the team really dreams of it, we want it. There is no obstacle that we can't overcome."

Shaw was an attacking force with Manchester City last season, scoring 20 goals in 22 league games, but she went scoreless at the World Cup.

"Right now we're a bit low, because didn't want to end the tournament. But I'm proud of all my teammates," Shaw said. "A lot of people didn't think we'd make it this far.

"We just have to be proud of our performance and lift our heads up. The gap is closing."

The Reggae Girlz had just one goal in the competition, Allyson Swaby's header in a 1-0 victory over Panama, while Shaw sat out of that match because of a red card in the opener against France.

Caicedo, who was diagnosed with ovarian cancer when she was 15, had a pair of goals in the opening round amid questions about her fitness. She was seen dropping to the ground during a practice session earlier in the tournament but played the entirety of Colombia's 1-0 loss against Morocco in its group final on Thursday.

After defeating South Korea in its World Cup opener, Colombia upset Germany 2-1 before falling to upstart Morocco in its group finale. Colombia became just the second South American team to top its group, joining Brazil.

Jamaica's defense held title contenders France and Brazil scoreless in the opening round, helping to push the Reggae Girlz through to the knockout stage. The Jamaicans lost every game at the 2019 tournament, their only other appearance.

Colombia had more chances in the first half but Jamaica's stout defense held and the match was scoreless at the break.

There was a scary moment when Jamaica's Trudi Carter was hit hard in the face by the ball in the 21st minute but she returned.

Jamaica goalkeeper Becky Spencer was able to punch away Usme's cross in the 29th. Caicedo sent the ball over the goal with a chance in the 38th.

Jamaica's Drew Spence was shown a yellow late in the half with a tackle on Caicedo, after Chantelle Swaby was also booked.

Spence nearly scored on a header in the 82nd but it went just wide. She raised her hands to her face in disbelief over the missed chance to even the game.

Colombia was without Manuela Vanegas because of yellow card accumulation. Guzman, who like Caicedo is 18, replaced her and gave the team some spark—as well as the crucial ball to Usme for the winning goal.

USA rolls past Puerto Rico in World Cup tune-up opener

LAS VEGAS (AP)—For an opening statement, USA Basketball's World Cup team made an emphatic one.

Anthony Edwards and Cam Johnson each scored 15 points, and the U.S. used a 20-0 run in the second half on the way to rolling past Puerto Rico 117-74 on Monday night in the first World Cup tune-up for the Americans.

Mikal Bridges scored 14 for the U.S., which finished with seven players in double figures and outscored Puerto Rico 67-31 in the second half.

"A great night for us. ... I think the guys have really picked up what we're trying to install at both ends," U.S. coach Steve Kerr said.

Jaren Jackson Jr. scored 12, Jalen Brunson scored 11 points and grabbed 12 rebounds, and Bobby Portis and Brandon Ingram each scored 11 for the Americans. Tyrese Haliburton finished with 12 assists for the U.S., which held some huge stat edges — 53-27 in rebounding, 31-9 in points off turnovers, 10-2 in blocked shots and shot 56% compared to Puerto Rico's 37%.

"It's just us playing together," Brunson said. "We're still getting to know each other, but everyone's really putting egos aside just to win and we've got a lot of high-character guys. That's the No. 1 priority for every single one of them."

Tremont Waters scored 17 for Puerto Rico, which got 12 from George Conditt IV and 10 from Jordan Howard.

There were spectacular moments, there were sloppy moments, there were botched plays and big-time plays. And in the end, the team with far more talent pulled away.

In other words, it went exactly as expected.

"I think our whole thing is, if we stay solid and really play without turning it over, without fouling, guard the 3-point line and really do a good job on the glass, then we feel like over 40 minutes we can wear people down," Kerr said.

Paolo Banchero pretty much blocked a shot with his elbow, Edwards' head nearly hit the backboard on a dunk, Austin Reaves got cheers the moment he checked in—after all, Las Vegas is a Lakers' town—and those yells only got louder when he made a jumper just seconds into his first stint with USA across his chest.

"We're figuring it out," Edwards said.

Astros stun Orioles on Kyle Tucker's grand slam off Félix Bautista

BALTIMORE (AP)—Kyle Tucker's grand slam off Félix Bautista in the top of the ninth inning gave the Houston Astros a 7-6 victory over the Baltimore Orioles on Wednesday night.

Houston trailed 5-0 after Ryan Mountcastle and Adley Rutschman homered off Framber Valdez in the first and second innings, but the Astros pulled off a remarkable comeback in the ninth.

Pinch-hitter Jon Singleton led off the ninth with a walk, and Jose Altuve followed with a single. Bautista (6-2) struck out Alex Bregman, but Yordan Alvarez came within a few feet of tying it with a drive to center. Jorge Mateo — a shortstop making only his second start of the year in center field — couldn't catch it, and the ball bounced off the wall for a very long single.

Tucker then battled Bautista for nine pitches, finally hitting a 100 mph fastball to right-center field for his 20th home run of the year. Bautista had allowed only five earned runs all season before Houston scored four on him in two-thirds of an inning.

Ryne Stanek (3-1) won in relief, and Ryan Pressly pitched a perfect ninth for his 27th save in 31 chances.

Baltimore's lead over Tampa Bay atop the AL East dropped to two games.

AP

Houston Astros' Kyle Tucker, right, celebrates his ninth inning grand slam with Jose Altuve, left, Jon Singleton, second from left, and Yordan Alvarez (44) during a baseball game against the Baltimore Orioles, Tuesday, Aug. 8, 2023, in Baltimore.

BRAVES 8, PIRATES 6

PITTSBURGH (AP)—Orlando Arcia hit a two-out, two-run double in the ninth, and Atlanta rallied from three runs down to beat Pittsburgh.

Braves star Ronald Acuña Jr. hit a leadoff homer but left the game in the sixth when he was hit on the left elbow by a pitch from Pirates reliever Colin Holderman. The Braves said X-rays were negative.

Kevin Pillar tied the game in the ninth with a two-out RBI single against Pirates closer David Bednar (3-2) before Arcia put the Braves ahead. Major league-best Atlanta stopped a three-game skid.

Kirby Yates (6-0) pitched a scoreless eighth. The Pirates put two runners on in the bottom of the ninth, but Raisel Iglesias got Jack Suwinski to hit a game-ending comebacker for his 21st save in 23 chances.

MARINERS 2, PADRES 0

SEATTLE (AP)—Logan Gilbert struck out a career-high 12 in seven innings of one-hit ball and Seattle won its sixth straight.

Gilbert retired 21 of the 22 batters he faced, yielding only an infield single to San Diego's Xander Bogaerts in the second inning. Star center fielder Julio Rodríguez aided Gilbert (10-5) by robbing Fernando Tatis Jr. of a potential homer with a leaping catch at the wall.

Seattle (61-52) has won 11 of 13 and pulled within two games of Toronto for the third and final AL wild-card spot. San Diego lost its third straight.

Matt Brash worked out of trouble in the eighth and Andrés Muñoz handled the ninth for his sixth save, concluding a three-hitter for Seattle.

Scott Barlow (2-5) allowed a one-out walk in the fifth and was relieved by Ray Kerr, who allowed the game's first run on a pitch-clock violation.

RANGERS 6, ATHLETICS 1

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP)—Max Scherzer gave up three hits over seven innings and Texas beat Oakland, extending its longest winning streak in seven years to eight games.

In his second start for the Rangers since being acquired by the New York Mets, Scherzer (11-4) struck out six, retired nine of the first 10 batters and didn't allow a hit until JJ Bleday's leadoff homer in the fourth.

Corey Seager had three hits including his 19th home run for the Rangers.

JP Sears (2-9) allowed nine hits and four runs in four innings. Oakland (32-82) assured itself of a losing season.

CUBS 3, METS 2

NEW YORK (AP)—Mike Tauchman hit a tiebreaking homer in the eighth inning off Drew Smith (4-4) and Jameson Taillon retired his final 16 batters to win his fourth straight start as Chicago beat New York.

Cody Bellinger also went deep and Yan Gomes had an RBI double for the surging Cubs, who won for the 16th time in 21 games.

Pete Alonso hit an early two-run homer for the sinking Mets. New York has lost seven of eight since trading Justin Verlander and other veterans at last week's deadline.

Adbert Alzolay worked a one-hit ninth for his 15th save in 16 tries. He started a 1-6-3 double play on Daniel Vogelbach to end it.

ROCKIES 7, BREWERS 3

MILWAUKEE (AP)—Milwaukee's Andrew Chafin and Abner Uribe combined to allow three straight bases-loaded walks in the 10th inning and hand the win to Colorado.

The Rockies' Nolan Jones went deep twice, the first multi-homer game of his career. Other homers came from Colorado's Elias Díaz and Milwaukee's William Contreras and Andruw Monasterio.

Chafin (2-4) walked Michael Toglia to start the 10th before Brenton Doyle loaded the bases with a bunt single. Automatic runner Harold Castro scored the go-ahead run when Chafin walked Cole Tucker on four pitches. Uribe came in, started the at-bat with a pitch clock violation and then threw three more balls to Ezequiel Tovar. Uribe then walked Ryan McMahon on four pitches to put the Rockies ahead 6-3.

RAYS 4, CARDINALS 2

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. (AP)—Yandy Díaz, Brandon Lowe and Randy Arozarena hit RBI singles in the eighth inning and Tampa Bay beat St. Louis.

Josh Lowe opened the eighth with a triple against Miles Mikolas (6-8). Andre Pallante entered and retired pinch-hitter Harold Ramírez on a grounder before Díaz hit a groundball single to center that made it 2-1 — the first of four consecutive base hits.

Díaz went 4 for 4 and raised his average from .315 to .322 as the Rays improved to 7-3 over their last 10 games. Isaac Paredes hit his 22nd homer of the season in the seventh inning, when he knotted the game at 1-all.

Tampa Bay center fielder Jose Siri helped preserve the 1-all tie with a leaping catch at the wall on Nolan Gorman's two-out drive off Jason Adam (3-2) with a runner on first in the top of the eighth.

GUARDIANS 1, BLUE JAYS 0

CLEVELAND (AP)—Tanner Bibee pitched seven innings and Ramón Laureano drove in the game's only run in his debut for Cleveland, which ended Toronto's four-game winning streak.

Bibee (8-2) allowed six singles—three by Whit Merrifield—and remained unbeaten in his last nine starts.

Laureano, claimed off waivers on Monday from Oakland, hit an RBI double in the second inning off Yusei Kikuchi (9-4), who gave up three hits in seven innings.

Trevor Stephan pitched the eighth and Emmanuel Clase worked around two infield singles in the ninth for his 30th save.

MARLINS 3, REDS 2

CINCINNATI (AP)—Jorge Soler hit a two-run homer in the seventh inning and Miami rallied past Cincinnati in a matchup of NL wild-card contenders.

Soler connected on a four-seam fastball from reliever Lucas Sims (3-3), sending it just out of the reach of leaping center fielder TJ Friedl. The Marlins held on to snap a five-game skid and move within one-half game of the Reds for the final wild-card spot. Cincinnati has lost seven of eight.

Miami starter Braxton Garrett (6-3) gave up two runs and six hits in six innings. David Robertson worked the ninth for his second save with Miami and 16th overall.

ANGELS 7, GIANTS 5

ANAHEIM, Calif. (AP)—Brandon Drury had three hits and Lucas Giolito picked up his first win for Los Angeles, which beat San Francisco to stop a seven-game skid.

Giolito (7-8) went six innings and allowed three runs on three hits with seven strikeouts. He had given up 12 runs in nine innings since being acquired from the Chicago White Sox on July 26.

Drury's single in the Angels' four-run first inning chased Giants starter Scott Alexander (6-2), who allowed hits to the only three batters he faced.

Wilmer Flores had two hits, including a two-run homer in the eighth inning, and drove in four runs for the Giants. Flores has reached base in 19 straight games, the longest streak of his career.

DODGERS 5, DIAMONDBACKS 4

PHOENIX (AP)—Freddie Freeman had three hits, Julio Urías threw six quality innings and Los Angeles held on to beat fading Arizona.

The Dodgers have won three straight and seven of eight. The D-backs have lost seven straight and fell to .500 (57-57) for the first time since April 7, when they were 4-4.

Arizona scored twice in the ninth to get within one run, but Evan Phillips induced a game-ending double play from rookie Corbin Carroll to earn his 15th save in 17 chances.

Urías (9-6), who gave up four hits, struck out five and walked one. The left-hander has thrown 14 straight scoreless innings dating to July 25.

Rookie Brandon Pfaadt (0-6) threw 4 2/3 innings, giving up four runs and six hits.

YANKEES 7, WHITE SOX 1

CHICAGO (AP)—Aaron Judge and Kyle Higashioka homered and New York beat Chicago.

Clarke Schmidt (8-6) pitched neatly into the sixth inning and combined with two relievers for 13 strikeouts.

Isiah Kiner-Falefa hit a two-run double and scored during New York's four-run fourth against Touki Toussaint (1-5), and the Yankees scored three more in the eighth behind the long balls by Higashioka and Judge off Tanner Banks.

Luis Robert Jr. hit his 31st homer for the White Sox, whose three-game winning streak ended.

PHILLIES 8, NATIONALS 4, GAME 1
NATIONALS 5, PHILLIES 4, GAME 2

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—Joey Meneses' second homer of the game was a solo shot off Philadelphia All-Star closer Craig Kimbrel (6-3) in the ninth inning that gave Washington a doubleheader split.

Meneses also hit a two-run shot off reliever Jeff Hoffman in the seventh that tied the game at 4-all. Bryce Harper hit a two-run homer for the Phillies.

Jordan Weems (3-0) tossed a scoreless eighth and Kyle Finnegan worked the ninth for his 18th save, fanning Harper to end it.

In the opener, Philadelphia's Kyle Schwarber homered twice off Washington's Trevor Williams (5-7) to reach 30 for the season and drove in five runs.

Zack Wheeler (9-5) settled down after allowing early homers to Lane Thomas and Keibert Ruiz, working six innings.

TIGERS 6, TWINS 0

DETROIT (AP)—Eduardo Rodriguez pitched seven solid innings and Detroit stopped Minnesota's five-game winning streak.

Rodriguez (8-5) allowed four hits—all singles—struck out five and walked three.

Tigers slugger Miguel Cabrera went 2 for 4 and scored a run. He has 3,142 hits, passing Tony Gwynn and moving into a tie with Robin Yount for 19th place on the career list.

Twins ace Sonny Gray (5-5) struck out 10 in six innings. He was charged with three runs—two earned—and seven hits.

ROYALS 9, RED SOX 3

BOSTON (AP)—Drew Waters, MJ Melendez and Michael Massey each hit two-run home runs and Kansas City beat Boston to snap a three-game skid.

Brady Singer (8-8) allowed three runs over 6 2/3 innings.

Adam Duvall homered for Boston, which has lost five of six. Kutter Crawford (5-6) allowed three runs in 3 1/3 innings.

Trevor Story made his season debut for the Red Sox following offseason shoulder surgery. The shortstop went 0 for 4 with three strikeouts.

NMIBF announces slew of basketball tournaments

By LEIGH GASES
leigh_gases@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Athletes and basketball fans have more to look forward to as back-to-back basketball tournaments are taking the island by storm.

The Northern Mariana Islands Basketball Federation has prepared a 10-month schedule from September 2023 to June 2024 with workshops, national team tryouts, school tournaments, business tournaments, 3x3 tournaments, a masters league, a U15 League, and the Michelob Cup in between—all before the Micronesian Games in June.

With more specific details to follow later, the month of September is welcomed by a weekelong coaching/referee workshop by Olympian Annie La Fleur.

Then the interscholastic middle school boys basketball season is set to start in the second week.

An Inter-Government/Business League is slated to start in the third week, with the Her World, Her Rules event as well; the 3x3 Tournament Series is set to begin in the last week of September.

October is the continuation of the Inter-Government/Business League, the interscholastic middle school boys basketball season, and the 3x3 tournament—with the start of the interscholastic elementary school basketball season in the third week, and the middle school girls 3x3 tourney in the last week of October.

November is the continuation of the Inter-Government/Business League, the elementary school basketball season, and the 3x3 tourney. The interscholastic high school girls season is set to start in the second week of November

December is welcomed by the Masters 40-and-up League and the continuation of the interscholastic elementary school basketball season, interscholastic high school girls season, and 3x3 tourney.

January brings the new year and the CNMI National Basketball Team Program tryouts and preseason and the interscholastic high school boys season. The Masters 40-and-up League, interscholastic high school girls season, and 3x3 tourney are set to continue.

February is the start of the U15 League and continuation of the National Program preseason, the interscholastic high school boys season, and the 3x3 tourney.

March is the start of the 3x3 high school girls tournament and is the continuation of the U15 League, the National Program preseason, and the interscholastic high school boys season.

April is the start of the interscholastic middle school girls league and the Michelob Ultra Cup men and women open division. It is also the continuation of the U15 League and the National Program preseason.

May continues the U15 League, the National Program preseason, Michelob Ultra Cup men and women open division, and the interscholastic middle school girls season. A 3x3 middle school boys tournament is set to begin in the second week of May.

And June concludes the Michelob Ultra Cup men and women open division. NMIBF will be sending representatives to the Micronesian Games from June 15 to 24 at the Marshall Islands.

NMIBF president James Lee was asked why they have all these events coming up and he said, "it's our obligation to grow the sport and in order to grow the sport, we have to have tournaments. It's a win-win in general, not only for our community—now there's events that they can go to and watch—but also internally, it's to grow our officials' skills to be better and have interests from players," he added.

Catch the action at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium as more specific details and dates of the tournaments come out in the future.

LEIGH GASES

Destiny Pangelinan goes for a layup during their 3x3 tournament in the women's division at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium last July 28. The Northern Mariana Islands Basketball Federation is gearing up for a 10-month basketball-filled schedule just before the Micronesian Games next June.

LEIGH GASES

Pohnpei's Connor Boylan, right, speeds toward the paint as NMI's U17 player Lance Lerio tries to screen during a game in the 2023 NMI-Pohnpei Goodwill Basketball Games last month at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

ATHENAS

From page 20

53 points, the most kills with 68, three blocks, and the most aces at 17.

Best Setter went to Yeshaiah Coleman and Most Blocks went to Omar with 5.

Manzon said after the tourney, that it was another great tournament. "As an officer of SVSA, it was another huge success. This time, we're better prepared because of our experience from the first tournament and I feel like everyone enjoys it too. We come together to show our skills and challenge each other."

As a player, he said "It's such a good tournament especially because it's mixed. It gives an equal advantage to all the teams because the girls and the boys are limited on the court at all times. It was a fun tournament. We've never really had co-ed games like these—it's really nice to have this in the summer, especially as a pastime thing.

Omar, for his part in winning the MVP award, said he wasn't expecting it all. As for the tournament, he said "I'm glad these guys are keeping stats because other tournaments, people are just competing for the top place. Now, it gives players a chance to look at what else they can improve in their game," he said.

The sponsors of the event were Herman's Bakery, MarPac, and Agape Christian School. SVSA thanked them along with all the volunteers of the tourney.

The SVSA is a new volleyball organization that aims to have frequent volleyball tournaments throughout the year. They had their first SVSA Spring Tournament last March, with Mighty Deez as the first champion.

LA

From page 20

achache when the second set was going on and I had to retire because of serious diarrhea during the match. It was horrible as I had never experienced that kind of pain during a tennis match. I have learned that I really have to watch out what I eat specially during the tournaments," he said.

Prior to his bout of diarrhea, Lam beat an Australian player in the qualifiers.

In doubles play, Lam played with a player from Papua New Guinea and lost in the first round of the main draw.

Lam had better fortune in the second ITF J30 tournament.

"The second tournament I felt better. I won the first match pretty easily but lost my second match to a Japanese player who was 16 years old. I could have played much better if I had made more intentional shots with consistency. I was leading in many points, 40-15, and had many deuces but I could not win them. I have to work on how to be more accurate and consistent when I am about to close the points," he said.

Lam then played the main draw in doubles with Junior Taufunu from Solomon Islands, his teammate in this year's tournament in Sri Lanka. They played the POJC singles champion and one of Tahiti's best 16s players and lost, 0-6, 4-6.

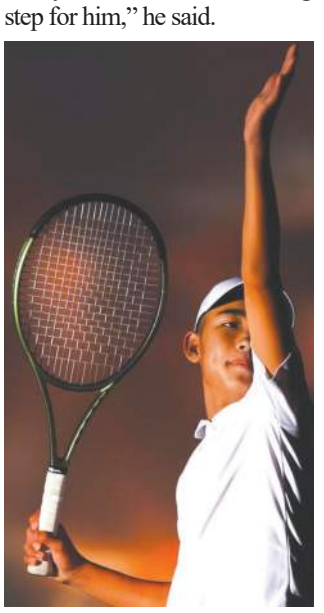
Win or lose, Lam is just appreciative that he's able to live his dream of playing tennis.

Lam then thanked his ever supportive parents—Billy and Joo—as well as Race, Ramsay and Oceania Tennis Federation coaches for guiding him in Fiji.

"I also want to thank my teammates and friends. It's been an awesome experience because of all their support," he added.

Race said in a sign of Lam's maturity, his ward gave him a very good analysis of his game and what he needs to do differently.

"He said he didn't think of the things [he needed to do] during the game. I told him that the ability to do that is the next big step for him," he said.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

La Hunn Lam is shown here in a promo shot from last year's Pacific Oceania Junior Championships in Lautoka, Fiji

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big numbers in their short four-inning bout.

Six runs were made in the first inning by Team Mac from back-to-back RBI singles from the top of the lineup with one home run by Dave Malwelbug. In the third inning, after a two-run stint in the second inning by Seaweed Vibes, Team Mac added more runs and scored seven for a 13-2 game.

When it seemed like maybe Seaweed Vibes might have a chance to catch up, Team Mac scored eight runs against Seaweed Vibes pitcher Ikluk Masayos.

Seaweed Vibes would go on to score just three more runs for a 6-22 final.

Just 4 Fun 13, Dat's It 4

Just 4 Fun weren't playing around as they scored early and won, 13-4.

A leadoff home run by Just 4 Fun's Shane Yamada started a seven-run first inning, as Brian Camacho scored a two-RBI home run, followed by a three-RBI homer by Jordan Suel.

Dat's It was zip until the fourth inning when they made their four and final runs. Wally Emul hit a three-run home run, with another home run by Kaipo Dikito.

Just 4 Fun then scored five more runs in the next inning and won when Dat's It could not score anymore.

Saipal 15, TuTuRamZ 14

In a close game, Saipal won over TuTuRamZ, 15-14.

Despite a last-inning outburst of runs for TuTuRamZ, Saipal hit a walk-off home run by Syl Kapileo in their last at-bat to break the 14-14 tie and win the game by one.

TuTuRamZ had scored eight runs in the sixth inning and were down by six runs as Saipal had already scored 14 runs by the fifth inning. When it seemed like an easy win for Saipal, TuTuRamz tied it up in the last inning by scoring five runs.

Aimeliik Bat Boys 9, Blue Jays 8

In another close game, Aimeliik Bat Boys defeated Blue Jays, 9-8.

The Blue Jays struck first with a two-run home run from Kier Agda, but Aimmeliik Bat Boys came back and scored six runs after Harry Nakamura and Marwin Leemarvin's home runs.

The game switched to the Blue Jays' favor when they scored five runs in the fourth inning for a one run lead, 7-6, but the Bat Boys tied it up in the fifth with a solo home run by Irvin Saralu.

When the Blue Jays could only hit one more run in, the Bat Boys took advantage and scored two runs in the last inning to take the W.

Kebruka 24, Ready Mix 12

In a run-filled game, Kebruka beat Ready Mix, 24-12.

Kebruka got a different memo and went on a home run derby as their team hit 11 home runs that brought in the majority of their runs in the game.

Ready Mix hit a few home runs of their own, but could not get players on base enough to chip away at the big lead Kebruka had by the sixth inning.

After a six-run last inning, Ready Mix fell when they could only score one more.

Mamaaw 20, PayDayHao 8

Mamaaw overpowered PayDayHao, 20-8.

PayDayHao's offense fizzled out quickly as they scored their eight runs by the fourth inning.

Meanwhile, Mamaaw kept the runs coming as they scored in every inning except one. Half of their runs came on home runs scattered throughout the game and PayDayHao had no chance of catching up.

France ends Morocco's run and advances to quarterfinals.

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Saipan Tribune
Sports

NMIBF announces slew of basketball tournaments.

PAGE 19

Athenas are champs of SVSA Summer tourney

LEIGH GASES

Team Athenas is the champion of the Saipan Volleyball Statistics Association Summer Volleyball Tournament last Saturday at the Agape Gymnasium. From right, Jerome Manzon, Jerico Castro, Yeshaiah Coleman, Beatrice Fabre, Arisa Custodio, and Cecile Guevarra.

LEIGH GASES

Team Athenas' Jerico Castro goes for the kill through an opening on Hot Diggers' defense during the third set of the championship round in the Saipan Volleyball Statistics Association Summer Volleyball Tournament last Saturday at the Agape Gymnasium.

By LEIGH GASES
leigh_gases@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Athenas waged war against seven other teams and came out the champions of the Saipan Volleyball Statistics Association Spring Volleyball Tournament last Saturday at the Agape Gymnasium.

In a five-set championship match to the finish, Athenas battled against Hot Diggers and defeated them in four sets and took three, while Hot Diggers only won one.

The scoreline read, 25-14, 19-25, 25-20, 25-18, in favor of Athenas.

Athenas was made up of the rotation of team captain Jerome Manzon, Jericho Castro, Macoi Aguda, Cecile Guevarra, Madelleen Narciso, Arisa Custodio, Danny Borlain, Beatrice Fabre, and Yeshaiah Coleman.

Hot Diggers included captain Mokywang Kim, Raja Sevugan, Kriszell Esteves, Marc Danga, Katriel Saures, Hye Jin Elliot, Tyran Joe Saures, Sui Yi, Rondelle Apostol, Julie Harrison, and Nehemiah Coleman.

Athenas' tough starting six solidified a fortress of impenetrable defense and powerful attacks that handed them an easy first set, 25-14.

Hot Diggers bounced back in the second set, 19-25 as they tried to make a push for a comeback and use up all five sets of the championship game, but Athenas flourished in the third set and won, 25-20.

Due to Manzon's skillful kills set up beautifully each time by setters Castro and Yeshaiah Coleman, Athenas blew through the third and fourth set with relative ease.

Hot Diggers mainstays Kim, Danga, and Esteves made the game close with each point they tried to get back from a fast and furious Athenas team. Kim would land his kills past blocks from Castro and Coleman, then the momentum would switch to their side.

But, the powerful trio of Castro, Coleman, and Manzon buried Hot Diggers with a flurry of points in the first minutes of the last set.

Hot Diggers finally made a point after seven consecutive points by Athenas and came close for just a two-point deficit.

However, Athenas didn't let go of the upper hand and sealed the win with unblockable kills by Castro and Manzon, and finally landed the 25th point after staying at 23 when Hot Diggers tried to rally and reach 18 points, for a final 25-18.

In an awards ceremony after the finals, the MVP award of the elimination round went to third place Ball Busterz's Mike Omar who had 48 kills and two blocks.

Manzon won the MVP award in the round-robin with

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No chance for No Choice against No Excuse

By LEIGH GASES
leigh_gases@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

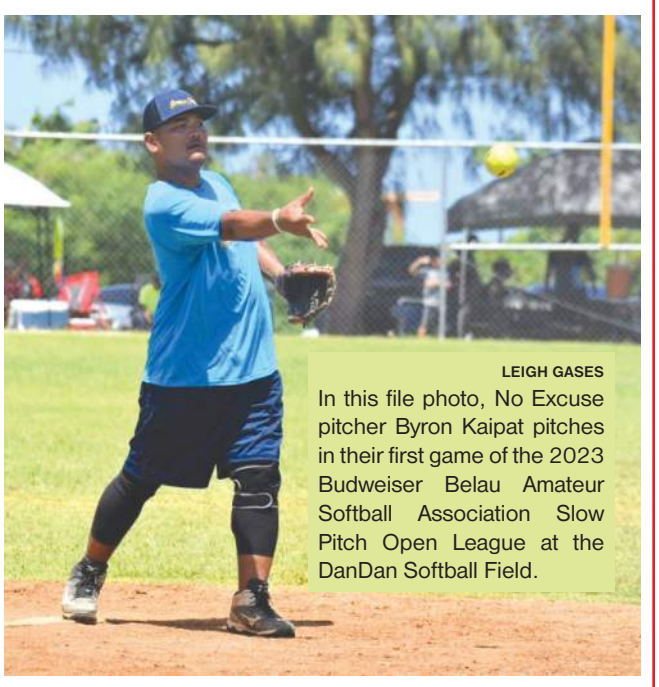
No Excuse didn't give No Choice a chance to score much during their game, as No Excuse won via a blowout, 20-2, in the 2023 Budweiser Belau Amateur Softball Association Slow Pitch Open League last Sunday at the DanDan Softball Field.

It was a shortened game as No Choice left 13 runs unanswered by the second inning. No Choice's Brandon Echalico scored the lone run and they went down in order in the next inning.

Meanwhile, No Excuse continued to rack up runs and scored five in the third inning for a 19-run lead.

No Excuse was popping balls far into the air as 13 of their runs came from home runs. Audie Maratita went 3-for-3 home runs, while Franko Nakamura, Byron Kaipat, and Jun Kaipat hit two each.

When No Choice could only score one more run via a home run from NBennett Williams, the game ended via the run-mercy ruling.



LEIGH GASES

In this file photo, No Excuse pitcher Byron Kaipat pitches in their first game of the 2023 Budweiser Belau Amateur Softball Association Slow Pitch Open League at the DanDan Softball Field.

Team Mac 22, Seaweed Vibes 6

In another one sided, run-mercy ruled game, Team Mac beat Seaweed Vibes, 22-6.

Team Mac only went scoreless in one inning, but put up

See NO on Page 19

La Hunn plans to remain on Saipan to train

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

The boys 14-and-under champion of the recent 2023 Pacific Oceania Junior Championships will be calling Saipan home for a while as La Hunn Lam will remain on the island to train.

"I am planning to stay for a while on Saipan to train with coaches Jeff Race, Colin Ramsey, and NMI players," he told *Saipan Tribune*.

Lam, who recently returned to the island after an almost month-long stay in Fiji, said this year's POJC and two tournaments in the ITF J30 competition really honed his tennis skills.

While he admitted that the two succeeding tournaments after the POJC were not as fruitful as far as wins were concerned compared to the POJC, he still picked up invaluable experience playing against top-caliber tennis players.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

La Hunn Lam, right, poses with just some of the older competition he faced in the recent ITF J30 tournament in Lautoka, Fiji.

"The first tournament, in the first match I won the first set but I started to have a stom-

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